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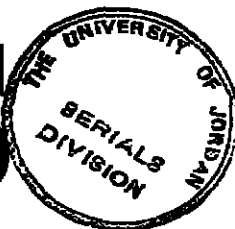


DRAWING OF THE DAY

Guide to the RA's Getty exhibition

Richard Cork, Arts page 31

30P



THE TIMES

No. 64,784

TUESDAY OCTOBER 26 1993

Sinn Fein leader banned from Britain as Ulster unites to march against terrorists

Major scorns Adams offer as blackmail

By Philip Webster in London, Nicholas Watt in Belfast and Nicholas Wood in Limassol

JOHN Major yesterday angrily rejected peace overtures from Sinn Fein, accusing its leader of blackmail, as MPs, churchmen and the people of Belfast united in revulsion at the IRA's Shankill Road bomb outrage.

The prime minister denounced Gerry Adams for setting conditions for an end to IRA violence, and declared: "I am not going to do deals with people who plant bombs and kill innocent people."

The message was reinforced in the Commons by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, who accused the Sinn Fein president of sickening hypocrisy, and the Home Office later announced that Mr Adams had been banned from entering Great Britain under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

As the politicians voiced their horror and fury, Belfast ship and aircraft workers demonstrated their disgust at the bombing that killed ten people and injured 57 on Saturday. More than 3,000 Catholics and Protestants from the Harland and Wolff shipyard and Shore Aero space factory marched side by side in silence up the Shankill Road to a Methodist church next to the bombed fishmonger's shop. Along the route, they were joined by shopkeepers and more than 2,000 people watched as wreaths were laid next to hundreds of flowers that have piled up over the weekend.

People peered through windows blown out by the blast and children perched on walls and scrambled up lamp posts. Relatives of some of the victims hugged each other and wept as the boiler-suited workers led the singing of *The Lord's My Shepherd* in an open-air service.

But they paid their respects under the shadow of still more

violence. A Catholic taxi driver who had been lured into a trap within hours of the bombing died of his injuries after being shot while delivering a Chinese takeaway meal. And a member of the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force warned civilians to stay away from all Sinn Fein offices. "There are many angry people with access to weapons," he said. "They should be directed at the perpetrators of violence and not at innocent people."

Politicians and church leaders, too, directed their anger yesterday at Sinn Fein after Mr Adams said he would ask the IRA for a ceasefire if the British government responded positively to his talks with John Hume, the SDLP leader. "The IRA, to my belief, would positively respond," he told the BBC. "I think the British government is playing with the issue. I don't want to be going back and forth and making meaningless statements or gestures or requests. I want to be in a position to make a definite proposal to the IRA which will allow us to move forward."

The suggestion appalled Mr Major, who is in Cyprus for the Commonwealth confer-

ence. He described the offer as outrageous and said: "What Mr Adams apparently said was that he was sure he could end the violence. If Mr Adams can end the violence then he should end the violence now without preconditions, without delay, without any suggestion as to political advantage and without proposals that seem to me to be tantamount to blackmail."

"If Mr Adams has any proposals to end the violence let him get on and do it. If he doesn't he should say nothing about it. But I think for the people of Northern Ireland who over the years have seen their friends, relatives and families murdered by IRA violence, to hear him suggesting, providing there is a political dividend for him, he can stop the killing will be something they would regard as outrageous and so do I. If he can stop the killing he should do it today without any preconditions."

In the Commons, Sir Patrick Mayhew saluted Mr Hume's courage in spearheading the nationalist attempt to bring peace to Ulster through talks with Mr Adams, but added: "It must be understood that never is there going to be any bargaining with those who reinforce their arguments with bombs and bullets or the threat of violence. Next to the sickening quality of what was done to people in the Shankill on Saturday has been the sickening quality of the hypocrisy of Mr Adams."

He was supported by MPs on all sides and Labour's Kevin McNamara said: "There can be no question of talking to any people or organisations who are capable of such vile cruelty to innocent people. The finest indication of a blueprint for peace that the IRA could give is an end to violence now."

Mr Hume was in the cham-



United in anger at the men of violence, shipyard workers march together up Shankill Road yesterday to lay wreaths for Saturday's victims

ber, but did not rise to speak. Later, however, he vowed to continue talking to Mr Adams. "If people study Mr Adams's recent interviews, they show clearly his flexibility and his seriousness about this dialogue and its objective of bringing to an end the terrible violence that is afflicting our people," he said. "If I can achieve by direct dialogue that lasting peace, that total cessation of violence, then I will do everything in my power to do so. I believe Mr Adams is serious in his dialogue and about its objective."

Dick Spring, the Irish foreign minister, was not so sure, describing Mr Adams's offer as "a little hard to take in the aftermath of a horrific bombing," and both Catholic and Anglican church leaders said the Sinn Fein president's words sounded hollow. Cardi-

nal Cahal Daly, the Catholic primate of all Ireland, said: "There is needed some tangible, concrete and meaningful proof that the words are sincere. At the very minimum, a suspension of violence is needed to show that there is sincerity." Archbishop Robert Eames, the Anglican primate, agreed. "This is not a time for making points, this is a time for acknowledging that the only way forward is a cessation of violence."

At the open-air service in Shankill Road, the Rev Brian Moore urged his congregation not to seek revenge. Mr Moore, a Presbyterian minister who agreed to the ship and aircraft workers' request for an early morning service, said: "Our feelings in this community are running high. We are indignant, even bitter and revengeful. But it is God's

prerogative to judge. Our lives and the lives of our children cannot be built on violence and more violence. Therefore we plead for restraint and urge you to seek another way." Shop stewards said they had been spurred into action because they could think of nothing but the bombing as they clocked on for work. George Rose, the Harland and Wolff shipyard's chairman, said: "There is raw anger and revulsion over what happened. Grown men were crying. Thirty people came up to me at the beginning of the shift and asked what we were going to do. We decided to show our feelings in a dignified way and asked Mr Moore if he would hold a service so we could lay wreaths."

M15 accused and Matthew Parris, page 2

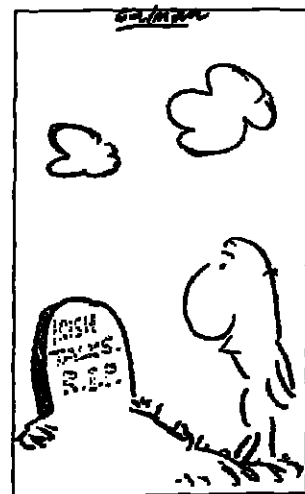
Rail services restored

RAILWAY staff were working through the night to restore services after bombers caused chaos on two busy lines.

British Rail said they were confident that the Reading line would be operating normally today. That between Princes Risborough and Bicester is expected to remain closed for at least the morning, and passengers will

be carried by bus. The line was closed after an explosion yesterday caused a hole in a road bridge above the Marylebone to Banbury line at Brill, Buckinghamshire. The first device exploded on the main line near Reading on Sunday, affecting trains to London and between Exeter and Waterloo.

Photograph, page 2



UK may host Bosnia talks

By our Foreign Staff

THE United Nations is considering a new round of peace talks in London to end the civil war in the former Yugoslavia. Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali said yesterday after talks with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. EC foreign ministers are to discuss the plan today with mediator Lord Owen.

Aid route cut, page 11

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Commonwealth's sanctions hint against Turkey

From Nicholas Wood in Limassol

BRITAIN was at odds with one of its Nato allies last night after sanctions against Turkey over its occupation of northern Cyprus were suggested.

The prospect of a rift loomed as the five-day Commonwealth conference in Cyprus ended as it began — with the dispute over the 1974 Turkish invasion of the north topping the agenda and overshadowing South Africa's imminent return to the fold and agreement over the world trade talks.

It appeared that angry Greek Cypriot protests directed against the Queen over Britain's alleged failure to apply sufficient pressure to Turkey and the simmering resentment from the colonial era had paid dividends for the Cyprus government.

After meeting President Clerides on Friday, John Major said he did not expect any specific Commonwealth initiative on Cyprus. But the conference communiqué issued last night painted a different picture.

It called for a "speedy withdrawal from the Republic of Cyprus of all Turkish forces and settlers, the return of the refugees to their homes in conditions of safety, the resto-

ration and respect of the human rights of all Cypriots and the accounting for those missing (the 1,619 Greek Cypriots still unaccounted for after the Turkish invasion)." It was the first time the Commonwealth had called for the withdrawal of "Turkish forces" rather than "foreign forces".

The communiqué blamed the lack of progress in the United Nations sponsored peace mission in Cyprus on the "negative attitude of the Turkish Cypriot side".

The immediate reaction from the Greek Cypriot camp was one of delight that President Clerides had secured such a tough declaration. At his closing press conference, however, Mr Major appeared to distance himself from the communiqué by saying that the UN mission involving face-to-face talks between Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, and the leaders of the two sides was the most productive way forward. "It is difficult to see how any external settlement can be imposed. It has to be reached by agreement," Mr Major said.

Pretoria invitation, page 10

Rush hour crawls to a record

By Tim Jones
Transport Correspondent

THE number of commuters entering London during the morning rush hour has fallen to less than a million for the first time in 30 years, but cars still move little faster than a Victorian horse cab.

Network SouthEast, however, just managed to beat its peak period target of 88 per cent of trains arriving within five minutes of schedule last year.

Transport department figures show that while in 1968 cars passed through central London during the morning peak period at an average of 12.7 mph, last year they were crawling along at about 10.2 mph.

Edmund King, of the Royal Automobile Club, said: "London is living on a knife-edge, with the prospect of gridlock never far away."

Motoring organisations and road campaigners blamed lack of planning and co-operation between the borough councils for the decline.

For the first time since 1962, the number of people entering central London between 7am and 10am was less than a million, as Continued on page 2, col 8

Church may review its ties with state

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

A COMMISSION to examine the relationship between the church and state is likely to be set up by next month's General Synod. It could herald the most far-reaching reorganisation of the Church of England since 1970.

In a debate on disestablishment, members of the synod will call on the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Dr George Carey and Dr John Habgood, to set up a commission on the state's role in the church. Both archbishops support the continued establishment of the church.

The Very Rev David Edwards, provost of Southwark, will propose that a commission be set up in an amendment to a motion by Bishop Colin Buchanan, the leading

proponent of disestablishment. Bishop Buchanan's motion advocates lifting state control from church legislation and from the appointment of diocesan bishops.

The church last examined its relationship with the state in 1970. Many church leaders believe the relationship now needs clarification, and change might be necessary in some areas.

Although the Church of England is often described as "by law established", with the Queen as supreme governor, it has never been formally established by an Act of Parliament or deed of trust in the way that other churches have been recognised since the Toleration Act of 1689.

The disclosure by church officials of a call for a commission comes on the eve of today's judicial review of the legality of the decision to ordain women priests. The Church Society, an evangelical body, is claiming that the synod exceeded the powers granted it by the 1919 Church of England Assembly (Powers) Act when it voted last November to ordain women priests.

The measure to ordain women priests is due to be debated in the House of Commons on Friday.

Diary, page 14

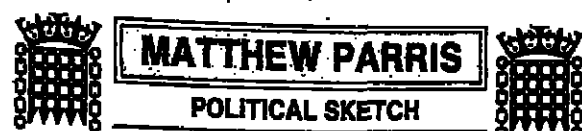


Carey in favour of the church's present role

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Empty words take drama out of crisis

It is not uncommon for a terrorist atrocity, within or outside Northern Ireland, to draw from MPs the remark that this has "exhausted the vocabulary of horror". But MPs' vocabularies are not easily exhausted.

Yesterday was strangely different. "We have," said Labour's Kevin McNamara, "exhausted the vocabulary of horror." And for once it seemed to be true. The usual adjectives were employed, of course—atrocity, hideous, horrible, revolting, mangled, broken, scarred, fiendish, cancerous, appalling, murderous... and a reading of Hansard might give the impression of the usual atmosphere of melodrama. But it was wholly absent.

The feeling was one of grief, but also of immense weariness. It was curiously flat, and very slightly enigmatic.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, set the tone. His statement was exceptionally well delivered, measured, sad, but without histrionics. There was no drama, no churchiness, no sabre-rattling.

Kevin McNamara, principal Opposition spokesman, is an incautious enthusiast for a united Ireland. He is the chief architect of the government's effective majority of 36. But yesterday he was restrained. So, too, was Joe Hendron, the man who snatched West Belfast from Gerry Adams, and one of the SDLP's three MPs. The second, Seamus Mallon, spoke not long after.

But where was the SDLP leader, John Hume? He was there, but never spoke. He almost always does, so why not yesterday of all days? Several backbenchers invited Sir Patrick to condemn Hume's recent bridge-building efforts, but he would only say that if Hume could persuade the IRA to abandon violence, the House would welcome that.

Yet speaking of Gerry Adams, Mayhew was unusually vehement: "the sickening quality of his

hypocrisy" was Mayhew's phrase. It is so difficult for English outsiders to read the signs. We watch these changes—if we are MPs we take part in them—but almost as interlopers, standing awkwardly at the door of somebody else's living room. Those within the room hate each other more deeply than they hate us, but they belong to the same family; they are able to crack the codes.

It is divisions within the Unionists which are the most interesting, but they are hard to interpret. The DUP (Ian Paisley and Peter Robinson) take the hardest line though they sit on the government side. Yesterday (and not for the first time) the young Peter Robinson seemed to outflank the old bellowing Paisley, in bitterness and suppressed violence.

Craig Brown, writing this sketch seven years ago, compared the pale, expressionless Robinson, seated always inches from his master, to a ventriloquist's dummy. The dummy seems to be taking over. It is creepy.

As for the other Unionists, laymen like your columnist can detect only that some are edging forward while others are rowing back; but why, and how far, and whether it is important, is beyond us.

Does it matter? To Shankill Road it must. It did to MPs, if mystified, yesterday. It is just that your sketchwriter remembers his boyhood in Nicosia, a place HMG would never abandon. I know: I heard the governor say so.

I remember the ebbs and flows of policy; the speculation about a half-smile from Archbishop Makarios; the bombs; the troops; the hundreds shot and dozens hanged.

Now we read of disturbances during the Queen's visit and we hear people say "what was that all about, then, in Cyprus in the 50s? Were we involved? Why?"



Commuters at Swindon station, above, were among thousands whose journey was disrupted yesterday by IRA bombers. Following an explosion on the line near Reading, Berkshire, late on Sunday night, a device exploded yesterday on a road bridge above the London Marylebone-to-Banbury line at Brill, Buckinghamshire. A BR spokesman said:

"We hope normal services will be resumed today, providing there are no further incidents."

Police and BR were alerted to the second explosion by a trackman who noticed damage to the road bridge and masonry on the line.

The bomb near Reading exploded after a device was made safe in a lavatory at Reading station. Anti-

terrorist branch officers believe the IRA had primed the station bomb to go off as emergency service workers dealt with the device on the line. Another bomb was discovered and made safe last night at Basingstoke station in Hampshire.

The apparent decision by the IRA to target commuters in the South-East brought a call for extra watchfulness

by rail users from Sir Bob Reid, the BR chairman. After visiting the scene of the Reading explosion, he said: "Let's face it, our lines are exposed... what we need is vigilance by everybody concerned." Thames Valley police said train spotters and station security cameras could hold vital clues in the search for the terrorists who targeted Reading.

RUC anti-terrorism officers attack MI5 tactics in Northern Ireland

By BILL FROST

RUC special branch officers, the prime source of anti-terrorism intelligence in Northern Ireland, are becoming increasingly frustrated by the high-handed tactics of MI5 in the province.

Relations between the two branches have been soured by a dispute over the flow of information to the anti-terrorist branch in London.

A security source said: "MI5, who are in Northern Ireland to analyse intelligence, have tried to clamp down on 'force to force' communications. Security service (MI5) officers said everything should go through them. But the RUC are not going to wear it. Force to force exchange of intelligence should be sacrosanct."

RUC special branch officers, who have long had a close working relationship with the anti-terrorist branch, emphasise the need to pass information direct to London.

■ Delays incurred while intelligence is analysed could have disastrous consequences, security sources believe

Any delay incurred while intelligence is "analysed" by MI5 could weaken the link and, in the worst case, have disastrous consequences on the mainland.

A year ago MI5 was charged with heading the fight against terrorism on both sides of the sectarian divide but in Northern Ireland the RUC special branch's primacy is clearly recognised by MI5. Information from agents and informers has proved vital and in recent years the branch has been more successful than ever in penetrating the IRA's network.

In public at least RUC special branch officers have accepted MI5's role in Northern Ireland but the potential for friction was always there.

Mr Nelson, who was charged with heading the fight against terrorism on both sides of the sectarian divide but in Northern Ireland the RUC special branch's primacy is clearly recognised by MI5. Information from agents and informers has proved vital and in recent years the branch has been more successful than ever in penetrating the IRA's network.

The case of Brian Nelson, a military intelligence agent within the loyalist Ulster Defence Association, is frequently cited as a telling example of what can go wrong under such circumstances. "The left hand did not know what the right was doing. More to the point, if it had, it would not have approved," a source said.

Nelson, who was charged with conspiracy to commit murder and possession of arms, was jailed for ten years. His military intelligence "hand-

ler" told the court that Nelson — acknowledged to have saved numerous lives while working for MI5 — was "the bravest man I have ever met".

According to one source in Belfast, MI5, under Stella Rimington, its director, seems overconfident that the IRA can be tackled with a more comprehensive intelligence. Officers work on a layered principle, assessing terrorist groups from the outside, learning how they function and about the environment in which they flourish. Only then will they focus on individual suspects. RUC special branch officers regard the technique as an "academic exercise rather than operational policing".

There is considerable resentment and suspicion that MI5 officers are determined to take the driver's seat in Northern Ireland, having taken the leading role on the mainland in the fight against terrorism. South of the border there is also concern over the activities

of the security service. Last June, Albert Reynolds, the taoiseach, was asked to investigate claims by a Galway businessman that MI5 had recruited him to entrap members of the Irish National Liberation Army in an elaborate sting operation.

Nial Andrews, a Fianna Fáil MEP, said: "I find it insulting that the British security service should be recruiting Irish citizens to work as spies within our territory. They still seem to regard Ireland as part of their domestic remit."

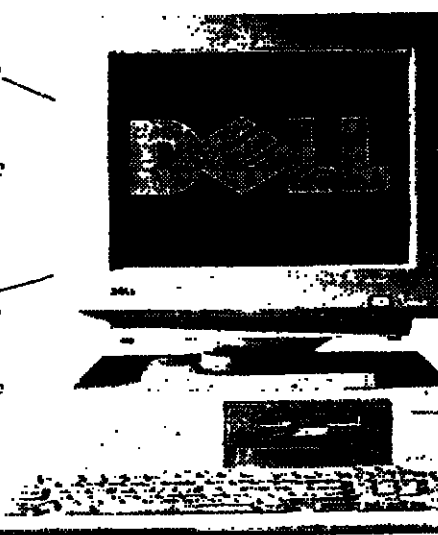
Special branch officers in Northern Ireland have different concerns. "The fact of the matter is that we know the ground best. We were born here and we live here," one source said. "They come in from London and, no matter how good they are, there is no substitute for being Irish in this place. It takes an Irishman to catch an Irishman."

Major's score, page 1

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Ban on cloning for British scientists

By LIN JENKINS

BRITISH scientists have been banned from cloning a human embryo the way their American counterparts have, even though it is not against the law. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority made the decision earlier this year after enquiries by scientists on the legality of such research.

The cloning of a human embryo in a test tube to create identical twin or triplet embryos has been carried out by Dr Jerry L. Hall, a researcher on in-vitro fertilisation at Washington University, in what he believes is the first experiment of its kind.

As scientists called for an international code to embrace such tests and genetic engineering, a British doctor claimed that the same experiment was done in Britain in 1985. The authority said yesterday that such research

could have taken place at the time — before the introduction of the 1990 act. Under the act one type of cloning is prohibited, but not the splitting of an embryo. Other techniques would, however, require a licence.

"We looked at the matter and decided on ethical grounds that it would not be allowed," a spokesman said. "The reasons were that people feel revulsion at deliberately producing identical siblings, and that it dilutes individuality."

The authority also rejected the research because of the problems associated with eugenics and the possibility, in theory, that one identical embryo could be produced at a different time to another, which could be detrimental to the children involved.

Mind and Body, page 13

Princess of Wales plans Moscow visit

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Princess of Wales is expected to make a three-day visit to Russia before the end of the year to see how British expertise is helping Moscow's largest children's hospital.

The visit has the full support of John Major, who discussed it at a private meeting with the princess last week. Neither Buckingham Palace nor

Downing Street, however, would lend any weight to suggestions that the prime minister was concerned that other members of the royal family were attempting to denigrate the princess to the sidelines of public life.

Foreign Office and palace officials have been secretly planning the trip for several months, following an invitation from Boris Yeltsin, the Russian ambassador in London, for the princess to see the work of the Tushinskaya Children's Hospital Trust, of which she is patron.

The princess is expected to travel to Russia at the end of November. Mr Major is understood to have advised her that she should not be there during President Yeltsin's promised December elections, and that if the fragile political situation deteriorates she should not go at all.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, is also thought to be keen for the princess to make the visit.

BBC licence fee may be tied to inflation

Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, indicated yesterday that the television licence fee might be pegged to inflation for the next three years. Speaking at Commons question time, Mr Brooke congratulated the BBC for the progress it had made reducing overheads. Touche Ross, the firm of accountants invited by the government to study progress the BBC had made on efficiency savings, had reported that the corporation was "well ahead" of targets set for it in 1990, he said.

Foreigners held at port

Three Britons were arrested after Customs officers at Dover, Kent, detained 12 Asian men trying to enter Britain illegally. The six Indians, five Pakistanis and a Nepalese were found hiding behind furniture in a transit van that disembarked from an overnight Calais ferry. It is believed that the arrests may have stopped an illegal immigration ring.

Whitehall trains ANC

Britain is training the administrators who will run the South African civil service after the transition to black majority rule in April. Members of the African National Congress are being trained at the Civil Service College at Sunningdale, Berkshire, in traditional Whitehall techniques such as how to brief ministers and define policy. Leading article, page 15

Escaping horses killed

Six horses belonging to Elizabeth Walkinshaw, wife of Tom Walkinshaw, who heads the JaguarSport car concern, were killed when they were hit by a lorry after escaping from their field. The A361 near Broadstone Stud at Swerford, Oxfordshire, was closed for five hours after the accident, which happened at 3am yesterday.

Parkin wife found dead

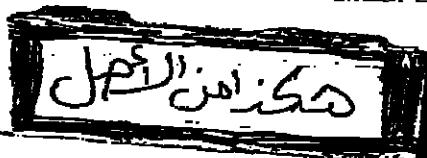
The widow of Leonard Parkin, the former ITN newscaster, has been found dead at her home in Pickering, North Yorkshire, a month after his funeral. Barbara Parkin, 63, had been separated from her husband for two years but returned to care for him during his illness. Friends said yesterday that she was grief-stricken over his death.

Seven years for conman

James Finningham, of Forest Gate, east London, was jailed for seven years by the Old Bailey for deceiving one woman into having sex with him after he claimed to be a Red Indian who could put her in touch with her dead father, and another into stealing for him. The latter, Margaret Fenty, 52, from Edmonton, north London, got two years' probation.

Homes charity seeks aid

Haig Homes, a charity founded after the first world war, is appealing for funds to add to its stock of 800 houses in 24 locations across Britain. It says that cutbacks in the armed forces as a result of the ending of the Cold War have increased the risk of many more ex-servicemen finding themselves homeless.



Pastor vows to go to prison rather than pay ex-wife

By RICHARD DUCE

A BAPTIST minister whose wife left him for their gardener said yesterday he would rather go to prison than meet a £100,000 divorce settlement.

Dennis Mickelsen, 69, has refused to accept that his 41-year marriage is over even though his wife Audrey says she is happy to see him go to prison.

He was warned by Judge Bazley White at Ipswich County Court yesterday that he faced jail unless he met the terms of a decree nisi last August, which ruled that his wife was entitled to half of his savings and income.

Mr Mickelsen, baptist minister for 25 years in Sutton, near Woodbridge, Suffolk, said after the hearing: "I am ready and willing to go to jail to stand up for a principle. My wife's home is here with me, so why should I pay out my God-given wealth to her when she is in an unlawful relationship which I find unacceptable."

"My heart's desire is to be reconciled with her and every day I pray that she will come back to me. I accept it is the law of the land that I should pay her maintenance, but it is an unjust law that punishes me when I am an innocent party. I believe in justice from the scriptures, which is what I preach every week, so how can I submit myself to an unjust law?"

Mrs Mickelsen, 67, was granted a divorce on the grounds that the couple had lived apart for two years. She lives at nearby Otley with

their former gardener, Peter Fisk, 69, who insists that their relationship is platonic.

Mr Mickelsen, a former butcher who was injured in Italy during the second world war, said: "I did not fight for my country to be enslaved by a law like this. I want our home to go to our four children and 13 grandchildren — not to be sold for the benefit of her and Mr Fisk."

He became friendly with Mr Fisk and his wife June, who is disabled, when they

'My wife's home is here with me, so why should I pay out my God-given wealth to her when she is in an unlawful relationship?'

became members of his congregation in 1988. "I didn't think anything was happening, even when he started coming round five or six times a week to do the gardening. I thought this man was my friend, but he turned out to be a Judas."

Mrs Mickelsen, who lives on a state pension, said yesterday: "My marriage didn't end because of my friendship with Peter. My love for my husband died because of his domineering and overbearing attitude. He never used to

listen to what I had to say and criticised me all the time.

"I don't care if he has to go to prison. The law is the law and I am entitled to my share. When I finally found the courage to leave, he poisoned our four children against me. I have not seen or heard from them since the day I left."

"I have not had a penny from him since I left three years ago. He changed all the locks and I was allowed to collect just a few personal belongings."

Mr Fisk, a retired herdsman, said: "I became friendly with Audrey when I went round for the gardening and I quickly realised that hers was not a happy marriage. My marriage was not a happy one and had ended in all but name when she telephoned me to say she wanted to leave her husband. I was ready to drop everything and go after her. Now I want to be with her for the rest of my days."

Mr Mickelsen was ordered to pay his wife an immediate lump sum of £20,000 — half of his life savings — and another £52,000 by November 15 last year after the sale of their four-bedroom bungalow, worth about £100,000. He was also ordered to pay her £625 a month for five years from the sale of his butcher's shops.

The judge yesterday ordered him to pay the £20,000 lump sum and three months' arrears within 21 days, and said he faced eviction from his home unless he placed it on the market.



Susan McHugh, the peace campaigner from Dublin, was a fellow guest with Princess Margaret at the Women of the Year luncheon in London yesterday. Mrs McHugh, who founded Peace 93 after the Warrington bombings, again called for an end to violence in Ulster

Bus cleaner who shot tourist is given life

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A GUNMAN who killed a German tourist and shot and stabbed members of his family was yesterday given two life sentences with a recommendation that he serve a minimum of 20 years.

James Boyce, of Rutherglen, Strathclyde, turned the Boedecker family holiday into a bloodbath when he attacked them in their camper van near Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway, shortly after breakfast on July 8 this year.

The High Court in Glasgow was told that Boyce, a 53-year-old bus cleaner, first shot dead Thomas Boedecker, an architect from Stuttgart. He repeatedly demanded money, but even after Mr Boedecker's 20-year-old daughter Julia handed over the wallet from her dead father's pocket, Boyce shot her twice.

He then turned his war-time revolver on Renate, the dead man's wife, a voluntary social worker with refugees. He shot the 47-year-old woman through the abdomen. The couple's 15-year-old son Just escaped but was shot through the arm as he fled.

Ian Bonomy QC, for the prosecution, told the court that Boyce then plunged a large kitchen knife several times into the bodies of Mrs Boedecker and her daughter and left them for dead.

When Boyce was arrested he was carrying four wet Bank of England £5 notes which were traced to the Boedecker's bank in Stuttgart.

Both women required massive blood transfusions. Mrs Boedecker was given only a 10-15 per cent chance of survival. Yesterday Boyce pleaded guilty to murdering Mr Boedecker, attempting to murder the other three members of the family and robbing them.

The judge, Lord Cullen, told him: "My recommendation, having regard to the danger to the public, is that you should not be released until 20 years have passed."

Soldier stays on road with prosecutor's help

By ROBIN YOUNG

A BIKER charged with doing 116mph appeared to be heading for a driving ban yesterday, until the prosecutor changed sides mid-hearing and pleaded his case against disqualification.

Richard Cleasby, a soldier with the Royal Marines' 40 Commando regiment at Taunton, Somerset, had pleaded guilty to speeding. He told the Bridport magistrates court in Dorset: "I am sorry for going a bit crazy. I was trying to get to Hastings to see my sister. She had been in America for six months and I only had a weekend leave so I was in a rush."

The magistrates agreed and Cleasby, although fined £350 and ordered to pay £25 costs, escaped disqualification.

Mr Hall, principal prosecutor for the Crown Prosecution Service, said afterwards that he thought it his duty to ensure the soldier was fairly represented.

He then turned his war-time revolver on Renate, the dead man's wife, a voluntary social worker with refugees. He shot the 47-year-old woman through the abdomen. The couple's 15-year-old son Just escaped but was shot through the arm as he fled.

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Student jailed for life after killing brother

By A STAFF REPORTER

A UNIVERSITY student was jailed for life yesterday for having stabbed his younger brother to death after listening to music from the pop group Faith No More.

Birmingham Crown Court heard that Richard Brown, 21, from Tunstall, Staffordshire, had been listening to the band's music, including the song Be Aggressive, just before plunging a 6in knife into Robert, 16.

Brown admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

James Hunt, the prosecutor, told the court that he was a loner who had just managed to gain a place studying chemistry at Staffordshire University. He said Brown was a dangerous man who lacked feeling or emotion, experienced with drugs and devel-

oped an interest in the occult, satanism and violent videos. Mr Hunt said Brown claimed to be involved with a satanic group called The Family.

In June this year the brothers were in the room they shared when their father was woken by Robert's screams.

The defendant told police he and Robert had watched videos of Vietnam war movies before going to bed and said it had come in to his head to kill a member of his family.

Mr Hunt said items found at Brown's home included books on killing techniques and satanism.

Anthony Barker QC, defending, said Brown appeared to his family to be perfectly normal, but his condition must have deteriorated rapidly in the weeks before the killing.



The minister, Dennis Mickelsen, left, and his former wife with her new partner

Father wins test case on increased maintenance

By PAUL WILKINSON

A DIVORCED father whose maintenance payments were almost quadrupled by the new Child Support Agency yesterday became the first successfully to challenge the agency's involvement in his case.

In a judgment with repercussions for many fathers whose child maintenance payments have been increased sharply by the agency, a county court judge ruled that it had been "inappropriate" for the man's former wife to turn to the agency for aid. Judge Bryant, sitting at Tees-side County Court, suggested that the agency had advised the woman on how to circumvent restrictions on the agency to enable them to become involved in her case.

Last week the prime minister's office and the Commons social services select committee began investigating the agency's work amid mounting public disquiet. The agency, which began operating in

April, has been accused of selecting easy targets among fathers already paying maintenance rather than absent parents who are failing to make any contributions.

Judge Bryant said that last July the CSA increased payments by the father from £123 a month to £473 for two of the three children of his first marriage. The man, a health service executive from co. Durham who earns £26,000 a year, claimed that the increase threatened the financial stability of the home he had started with his girlfriend and their two children.

The judge, speaking in open court after a two-hour private hearing, said that under the arrangements for the establishment of the agency there was a transitional period until 1996 when it could not interfere in cases where a matrimonial order existed.

Soon after the agency began operations the wife wrote to it.

She received a reply from "customer services" which advised her that if she revoked the order she could apply to the agency for assessment. On July 13 she successfully applied to Darlington County Court for the maintenance payments to be halted. Soon afterwards her former husband was contacted by the agency implementing the new increased payments.

The judge said: "It seems to me that an assessment from the agency is not necessarily in the best interests of the children. It might produce a higher figure, but it may be that other matters outweigh the purely financial."

The judge said that in the case before him the wife's actions had been "an inappropriate exercise" of her discretion to revoke the order. He suggested she might alternatively apply to the court for a variation of the original maintenance order.

Vikram Seth fuels Booker shortlist row

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

VIKRAM Seth, author of the longest single-volume novel in the English language, yesterday accused Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Booker Prize judges, of "bad-mouthing" his book as the controversy surrounding this year's award continued.

The winner of the Booker Prize will be announced tonight at a ceremony in central London, but a pre-Booker prize party was held last night in honour of Mr Seth, whose novel, *A Suitable Boy*, was left off the shortlist. A spokesman for Orion Books, Mr Seth's publishers, insisted that the "ante-Booker" party was not a spoiler, but scheduled to fit in with the novelist's four day visit to Britain as part of an international tour.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *Start the Week*, Mr Seth fuelled the row created by his book's exclusion. He hit back at recent comments

made by Lord Gowrie, who thinks *A Suitable Boy* would benefit from "editing in the cinema sense".

Mr Seth said: "In Gowrie's case I think if one couldn't expect justice at least one should expect judiciousness. Gowrie really should have known better than to make unsavoury comments to the press and on the air in order to bad-mouth the book."

"Gowrie was being defensive, he shot his mouth off or maybe he opened his mouth and showed his gavel in."

Lord Gowrie was in a less combative, but more ironic mood yesterday. "I did not hear him," he said. "I suppose I would rather stuffily disapprove of a contestant taking a view, though I suppose he is perfectly entitled to do so."

"We all thought highly of *A Suitable Boy*. We thought more highly of others."

Mr Seth's absence from



Seth: more than 100,000 books sold since March

the 25th Booker shortlist was greeted with surprise last month. The book has been a success with critics and book purchasers, selling more than 100,000 copies since its publication in March.

Lord Gowrie insists that the book was not deselected purely because of its length. He said that a "curiously amiable tone" had played against it. "It was a rather

amiable ramble through the period it dealt with. That is a subjective view."

The embarrassing dispute has not been helped by Anthony Cheetham, the chairman of Orion Books, who has publicly attacked the Booker judges. Yesterday Mr Seth said that his publisher had been naturally upset.

According to Martyn Goff, Booker administrator and chairman of the Book Trust, Mr Seth's novel made it to the last ten. "It got more time spent on it than anything else. One of the judges felt very, very strongly about it so there was a definite fight."

But Mr Goff said that although the inevitable controversy was good for the award, there used to be a time when the losers simply shrugged their shoulders.

"Now they seem to feel that the judges should be shot," he said.

Diary, page 14

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In a business class of its own

Lilley considers using palm prints to vet pensioners

By Jill Sherman
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PENSIONERS may be required to give their palm prints before being able to collect their state pensions as part of the government's crackdown on benefit fraud.

Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, admitted that finger and palm prints were being considered along with an identity card for benefit claimants.

Mr Lilley stressed there was no formal proposal but conceded that it was possible that the 25 million people who receive state benefits would have to carry a card.

He told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme that ideas being considered ranged from "something like a credit card, where you have to identify yourself with a signature, to other rather jazzy types of things where you are identified by your palm print or whatever."

He explained that ID cards had been rejected in the past because of the prospect of a high failure rate. "We can't have a system where 1 per cent of pensioners fail to get their pension every week because they are artificially recorded as not being the right person," said Mr Lilley.

"We want something that is absolutely rock solid and of value to pensioners and others rather than a hindrance to them." Officials pointed out later that Mr Lilley was also concerned about the cost.

More than 25 million people now claim state benefits. Ministers want to save £1bn next year by cutting associated crime

When it was pointed out that people might be upset at having to give finger or palm prints, Mr Lilley said: "We would certainly want to take into account very carefully the reaction of people who would be affected and any civil liberties implications."

The prime minister confirmed his own support for research into the practicality of ID cards. British taxpayers wanted to be sure that their money went to the deserving and wanted the government to be tough on fraud, he said in an interview from Cyprus on the same programme.

Mr Major said: "We are examining whether it would be practical to deal with it by ID cards, whether it would be helpful in the battle against fraud. We are in the preliminary stages. Nothing is decided yet but I thought it appropriate to look and see if it could help."

More than 25 million people now claim benefits, including

the unemployed, child benefit recipients and pensioners. Although the prime minister yesterday played down suggestions of a national identity card, Michael Howard, the home secretary, has been looking at its feasibility.

Home office sources stressed last night that although Mr Howard was not opposed to a national identity card in principle, he had yet to be convinced that it would be a practical way to fight crime.

Mr Lilley, who aims to save £1 billion next year by cracking down on benefit fraud, disclosed that the prime minister's efficiency unit, led by Sir Peter Levine, had drawn up interim proposals. The options, which include identity cards, were discussed at a meeting with the prime minister last week which was attended by Sir Peter, Mr Lilley and Sir Michael Partridge, permanent secretary at the social security department. A final report is expected before the end of the year.

Margot Norman, page 12
Diary, page 14
Leading article, page 15



Historic scenes at Hampton Court Palace are brought to life by Roberto Lagnado, a professional storyteller who is keeping children entertained during half-term by telling tales in the Queen's Gallery using paintings, statues and tapestries as props.

There are also family trails to encourage exploration of the royal palace in southwest London, including a route through the Tudor kitchens, where children have to discover two dishes that Henry VIII would have eaten. The events run until Sunday.

Listeners flock to doomed Radio 5

By Alexandra Freen, Media Correspondent

RADIO 5, the BBC network station which is to be sacrificed next year for a new rolling news and sport service, has increased its audience share 47 per cent during the past year. It is the biggest increase recorded by any BBC or commercial station.

According to figures published yesterday by Radio Joint Audience Research, the number of people listening to Radio 5 has risen to more than four million.

Although its audience has declined slightly during the past three months, those who listen to Radio 5 tune in for an extra 30 minutes each week, boosting its audience share from 1.9 to two per cent.

Michael Green, deputy head of BBC Radio, defended the decision to axe Radio 5. "The growth in Radio 5's audience share comes from its sports coverage; sport will be an essential part of the new news and sport network replacing it."

The quarterly radio audience figures also showed that the weekly audience of Virgin 1215, Richard Branson's rock station, had dropped 1.4 million from the 3.28 million achieved one month after its launch last April. David

Campbell, Virgin 1215's chief executive, said the drop could be explained by a fall-off in listeners who had tuned in during the first month to sample the station.

He accepted that the station's aggressive image and music policy had put many listeners off.

Radio 1, expected to be the biggest single loser to Virgin, saw only a slight drop in its audience share from 19.9 per cent to 19.6 per cent.

Classic FM maintained its position as Britain's most popular commercial station, even though its audience share dropped from 2.7 to 2.4 per cent. That could be explained partly by a strong performance by Radio 3, whose audience share increased from 1.3 to 1.4 per cent in the last quarter, largely due to its coverage of the England cricket test matches.

According to the Radio Advertising Bureau, representing advertisers and agencies in the radio industry, the latest radio audience figures also show an increase in the audience for commercial radio of 1.3 million listeners over the past year, compared with a fall of 1.3 million in the BBC's audience.

Police believe PC's killer is being helped

By A Staff Reporter

POLICE believe the killers of PC Patrick Dunne and the suspected drugs dealer William Danson are being shielded. As the inquest into their deaths opened yesterday, detectives joined the coroner in appealing to the public to help the task force set up to find the murderers.

Sir Montague Levine, the coroner for Southwark south London, said that even "the most tenuous trivial information" should be given to the SI strong team of officers investigating the shootings in Clapham last Wednesday. After a three-minute hearing, during which there was evidence that both men died from gunshot wounds, he adjourned the full inquest until January 18.

Afterwards Det Inspector

Peter Johnstone, second in command of the investigation, said: "We believe there is someone out there in the community who knows who has done this. These people must not be shielded. You must give us information."

He said that since the police incident room number was set up on 081-667 1212, the telephone had not stopped ringing. "But we are always greedy for more information."

Yesterday Michael Howard, the home secretary, met Gill Forth, the widow of another murdered policeman, and heard a plea that officers should in future be allowed to carry guns. Her husband, Police Sergeant Bill Forth, was stabbed to death in Northumbria last March while answering a 999 call.

Mental patients 'trapped'

By Ian Murray

UP TO 19,000 people with slight learning difficulties are trapped in long-stay Victorian-style institutions as a result of the government's health reforms, according to a charity report published yesterday.

Values into Action, the learning difficulty charity, claims that in order to retain the funds needed to stay open, health service trust hospitals are keeping patients with low IQs who could otherwise live in the community. If they were allowed to leave, hospital funds would be transferred to local authorities and the hospitals would be closed.

"We have found that many

mental hospitals that were due to close are planning an unlimited future," said Dr Jean Collins, who wrote the report *The Resettlement Game*. This runs counter to government policy which encourages moving mentally handicapped people into the community.

Dr Collins found that keeping hospitals open ate into available funds because money was needed to maintain old buildings. She also found that staff were reluctant to make the move from a hospital environment to working in the community to look after their patients. "It is

evident that people are not wanting to go along with government policy," she said. "They are interested in looking after their own careers and preserving their professional interests."

Assessments on people awaiting discharge have not been completed in some areas, although these should have been completed by the end of last year. The report concludes that operating policies and business strategies are taking precedence over the needs of the mentally handicapped.

Body and Mind, page 13

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Schools urged to start sex lessons for four-year-olds

By Ben Preston, Education Correspondent

CHILDREN should receive sex education in schools from the age of four in an effort to cut teenage pregnancy, the Family Planning Association said yesterday.

Primary schools should ensure all pupils are taught about sex, including sexually transmitted disease and homosexuality, according to the association, which yesterday published a classroom guide.

It suggests children aged four to seven might be asked to attach drawings of sexual organs to diagrams of men and women.

Other suggestions include an information game for seven- to eleven-year-olds in which they would ask and answer questions such as "what is an orgasm, what is a lesbian and what does being gay mean?"

Doreen Massey, director of the association, said children were bombarded with images of sex from the media yet inadequate sex education was a significant cause of unplanned pregnancies among teenagers.

"Children need to know the essential facts about sex before reaching their teenage years or they run the risk of relying on playground myths and garbled messages," she said.

"Sex education at primary level is not about the mechanics of sex. It is about laying the foundation for teaching sex education in the context of

feelings, friendships and relationships." Many primary schools include sex education in their curriculum and guidelines are given in the national curriculum, but provision is regarded as inconsistent. Governors are responsible for deciding the content of lessons.

A survey showed that one in eight primaries in England had no policy on sex education. A controversial amendment to the 1993 Education Act, from next August, will allow parents to withdraw their children from all or part of sex education outside the national curriculum.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, former education minister and Conservative MP for Brent North, said sex education should be left to parents, not primary schools. "Young pupils should

have a right to childhood without this sort of material being pushed at them, trying to make them sexually active before their time," he said.

Dr Ewan Armstrong of the Terrence Higgins Trust, the Aids help group, described the workbook as a watershed in sex education. "The FPA, once and for all, has provided a clear and comprehensive volume of tangible ideas of how to introduce sex education at primary school level."

Penelope Taylor, assistant general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said: "I am quite sure this workbook will be used for discussions in staffrooms. However, it seems quite advanced and may not be so well used in the classroom."

Libby Purves, page 14



Doreen Massey, of the FPA, with the teachers' guide

The 'king' lives on in Scotland

By Gillian Bowditch
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of around 100 Elvis Presley fans, including a number of look-alikes, turned out at Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire yesterday to prove that the king of rock and roll still lives and to watch the presentation of a plaque commemorating his one and only brief touchdown on British soil.

Scotty Moore and D.J. Fontana, guitarist and drummer with Elvis's band from 1954 until his death in 1977, presented the airport with a Harp Rock plaque to commemorate Presley's one hour visit 33 years ago.

The rock star was on his way back to America and to stardom, having just completed 17 months' national service with the 32nd

Tank Regiment stationed at Bad Neuheim near Frankfurt, when the military plane he was travelling in landed to refuel at Prestwick on the evening of March 2, 1960.

Several hundred fans, most of them girls who were screaming and waving, were there to greet him and Presley shook hands and signed autographs. According to David Silver, a journalist who interviewed him during his hour's stop-over, the rock 'n' roll legend took one look around the airfield and asked: "Is this Scotland?"

According to the Harp Rock publicists, on looking round the military airfield, Presley said: "This is quite a country. I must see more of it." But despite persistent rumours that he was considering a concert tour, the king never set foot on British soil again.

Horse girl was victim of serial attacker

By A Staff Reporter

DETECTIVES hunting the man who repeatedly stabbed a schoolgirl as she fed horses near her home believe she was the victim of a serial sex attacker.

Since the attack on Amanda Millard, 15, in Coseley, West Midlands, several previously unreported attacks in the area during the past five weeks have come to light.

Det Supt Malcolm Griffiths, who is leading the enquiry, said: "We have discovered a number of indecent offences in that area where the suspect's description fits that of the man we have been looking for."

"There have been six recent offences of indecent assault or indecent exposure that we now know of. Four of these match the description of the man who attacked Amanda."

"If he has progressed from flashing to sexual assault and now to this serious offence we are very worried indeed. Had Amanda's wounds been spread wider across her back or a bigger knife used then she may not be alive today."

Mr Griffiths said he believed there might be a number of other unreported sex attacks and appealed for victims to contact a special hotline.

Amanda was yesterday said to be in a comfortable condition in hospital with stab wounds and a collapsed lung. Police believe she will make a full recovery, but will probably remain in hospital for two weeks.

Amanda was grabbed from behind and pushed face down to the ground by her attacker. She was stabbed seven times before the man, who was described as about 20 with a local accent, ran off. The girl then staggered to a nearby house and she was taken to hospital by ambulance.

"Amanda is recovering slowly, but she suffered a traumatic ordeal and the stress will take a long time to go away," Mr Griffiths said. He said her mother, Sue Millard, was shocked by the attack, and is also suffering from stress.

Son's ta 47-year- of cine

Insurers refuse to pay plane crash family

By Faint

A FAMILY... the... light... their... missing... been... requiring a...

Insurers have... pay the... aircraft... combined... passenger... shoes... luggage... Barbara... Birm... Wigh... April...

Mrs... Benbridge school... Field... the... for... light... said... drive... something... victim... by... seems... to... Mr... worked... clear... top... garden...

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Son's tale may solve 47-year-old mystery of cinema murder

By RICHARD DUCE

THE murder of a man shot dead 47 years ago was close to being solved yesterday after the confession of a man to police in Bristol.

Six shots rang out at the Odeon cinema in Bristol one night in 1946. Five were on the soundtrack of the Ronald Coleman film showing at the time, the sixth killed the manager.

Now police are investigating the statement of a man who walked into a Bristol police station and claimed his father and a friend were responsible for the shooting of Robert Parrington Jackson at the Union Street cinema on May 29, 47 years ago.

Mr Jackson, 33, was murdered with a .45 revolver in his office as 2,000 people watched *The Light That Failed*. The fatal shot was fired into his temple.

Police have reopened the investigation following the confession, but there can be no prosecutions because both the alleged killers are dead.

Chief Inspector Colin Benson, of Avon and Somerset police, said yesterday: "He has told us enough to convince us he is telling the truth."

Police have still to establish why the man, in his fifties, has chosen to come forward four years after the death of his father in 1989. The confession is not being linked to publication of a book later this week, *Murder and Mayhem in the West*, by Veronica Smith, which still cites the murder as unsolved.

At the time of the crime

there were two theories behind the murder of Mr Jackson, known as Jacko, who as a Royal Navy lieutenant survived the sinking in 1941 of HMS *Prince of Wales* in the Far East. One was that he was the victim of a robbery that went wrong; the other was that Mr Jackson, who had a reputation as a ladies' man, had been shot by the jealous partner of one of his conquests.

Before he took up cinema management, newspaper reports at the time of his death suggested he had enjoyed a brief film career in Hollywood where he had a part in *Adventures of Robin Hood*.

In 1975 Fred Jester, a 73-year-old ex-serviceman, threw fresh light on the mystery. He told detectives: "Jacko was always the 'hail fellow, well met' sort of bloke who would greet his usher-

ettes and kiosk girls with a hug or a kiss. It was nothing more than well-meant fun, but I believe it led to one of the boy friends becoming jealous. Something happened to one of the girls in the kiosk and, although Jacko had nothing to do with it, he apparently got the blame."

Alston Thomas, a retired Bristol journalist who covered the murder, said yesterday he was sceptical about the confession. He said that although police at the time could not prove it, the murderer was thought to be an American GI. "The theory goes that he just burst into the manager's office and synchronised his shot to fit in with the gunfire in the film," Mr Thomas said.

Then, after he had fired the bullet through the manager's temple, he robbed the cinema's takings from the office and caught a train to the Midlands. He was never caught because the American authorities wouldn't co-operate and he was shipped back home before the police could do anything.

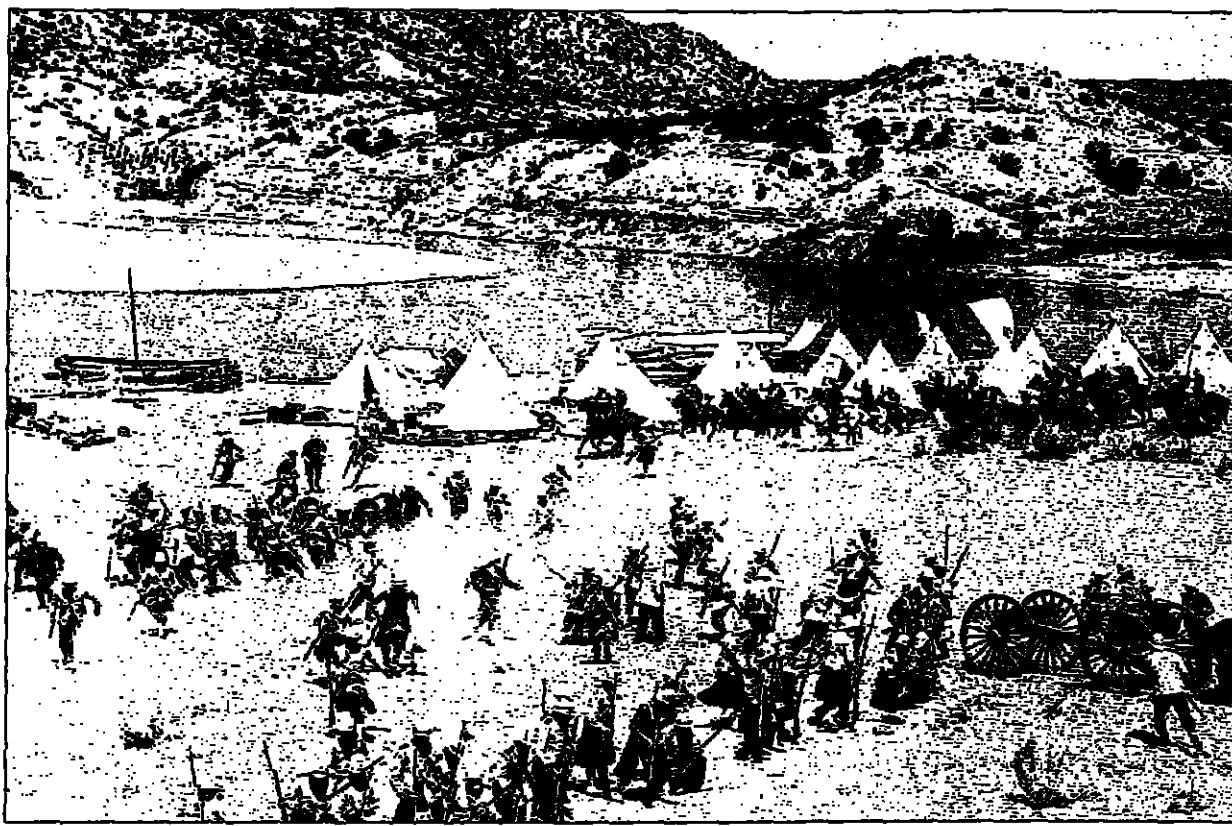
"Robert's widow always accepted that and thought the case was closed. I have spoken to her today and she is sceptical, too."

Mr Jackson's widow, whom Mr Thomas declined to identify, re-married and lives in Weston-super-Mare. She had children by her second husband and does not want her grandchildren to know of her "harrowing" past.

Mr Thomas said: "The murder is part of Bristol's folklore and almost anyone



Jackson: he was shot once in the temple



A scene from *The Light That Failed*, which covered the sound of the shooting in the manager's office

could give details about it. She doesn't want to discuss what happened back then."

Mr Benson said: "The case has been passed to CID. We have been searching the archives but information is proving difficult to come by." Police would like to hear from anyone who has knowledge of the case, along with the original investigating police officers, including Supt Fred Carter, who is thought to have retired abroad.

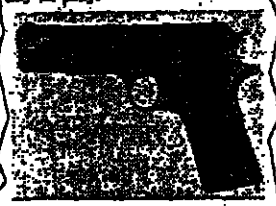
A spokeswoman for Redcliffe Press, publisher of Veronica Smith's book, said: "It is totally unconnected. We know nothing about this confession until yesterday."

Police said the man who told them who the murderers were would be interviewed at length later this week. They said he was a local man and not American.

THE GUN OF A KILLER

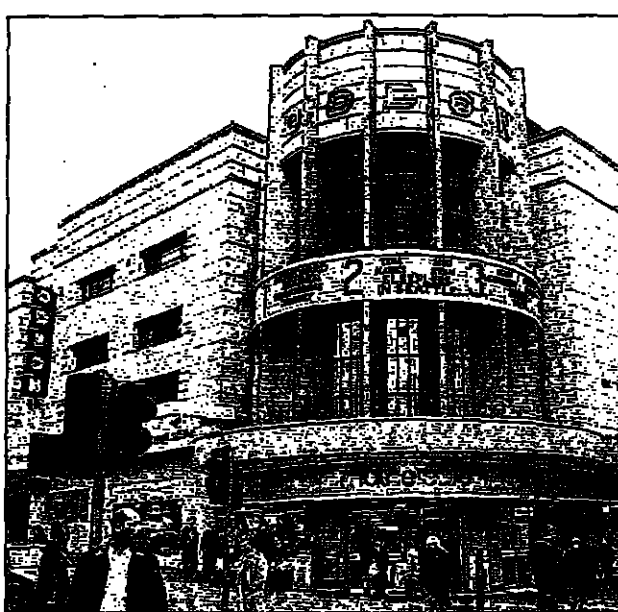
WEAPON USED IN CINEMA MURDER FOUND

From Our Own Correspondent
Bristol, Saturday
This is the gun which the police believe killed Mr R M Parrington, manager of the Odeon cinema, Bristol, as he bent to lock the safe in his office one day in 1946.



Over three months after the crime the weapon was discovered at the bottom of a waste water tank near the scene of the murder. The theory is that it was thrown down by the killer as he made his escape.

The murder weapon, as featured in the press



The Odeon cinema in Bristol today, 47 years later

NEWS IN BRIEF

Schoolboys find body in drain

A murder hunt was launched yesterday after two schoolboys found a suspected drug dealer dead in a drain. Jason Rafferty, 21, a mechanic from Newport, Gwent, had been punched unconscious by his attackers and dragged to the culvert next to a pub car park.

Police believe Mr Rafferty froze to death as he lay in two inches of water. He was last seen alive by his cousin who took him to the car park. Mr Rafferty was later reported missing and his body was found two days later.

Detectives are trying to piece together the last 36 hours of Mr Rafferty's life. "We are investigating Jason's background carefully," Chief Supt Mark Waters said.

Sex charges

Two nursery school teachers facing child-sex charges are back behind bars just days after a High Court judge freed them on bail. Christopher Lillie, 29, from Newcastle, was charged with the rape of a girl, 3, Dawn Reed, 22, from Durham city, also faces another indecent assault charge.

Murder arrest

A man has been arrested in connection with the murder of Wayne Lomas, whose body was found buried in concrete under a house in Bristol. Mr Lomas, 31, a car dealer, had been missing for five years. A 46-year-old man from Bristol was arrested on Sunday.

Family robbed

Thieves held a family at gunpoint during a raid on their Northampton home on Sunday. Dama Miah, 11, had a gun held to his head as the thieves stole cash and jewellery. Police are hunting two men.

Royal visit

The Prince of Wales will visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates next month. He last visited Saudi Arabia in late 1990 to inspect British forces.

Painful parting

Joyce Browning, 71, who lives near Stroud, Gloucestershire, has appealed for the return of her stolen tortoise, Joey, who has been her pet for 30 years.

Insurers refuse to pay plane crash family

By ELAINE FOGG

A FAMILY recovering from the trauma suffered when a light aircraft plunged into their back garden, narrowly missing their home, have been forced to foot the bill for repairing a crater left by the plane.

Insurers have refused to pay the £800 bill because the aircraft, a Cessna 150, with the combined weight of pilot and passenger of more than 30 stones, plus nine stones of luggage, was too heavy when it crashed into the garden of Barbara Arthur in Bembridge, on the Isle of Wight, last April.

Mrs Arthur, a secretary at Bembridge school, and Barry Field, Conservative MP for the Isle of Wight, are calling for third party insurance for light aircraft to be made compulsory. Mrs Arthur said yesterday: "If people drive off in a car and do something stupid then the victim is at least compensated by the insurance company. It seems the same rules do not apply to light aircraft."

Mrs Arthur said that workmen had been forced to clear 10 tons of fuel contaminated top soil from the garden.

The Earl of Caithness, minister for aviation and shipping, said in a letter: "The Civil Aviation Authority advise private fliers to insure themselves against a liability of at least £1 million. However, as this case indicates, even where insurance is taken out, the policy can still be invalidated by the way the aircraft is flown."

Courts asked to speed up child sex abuse cases

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

CROWN Courts are being asked to speed up child sex abuse cases because of the low level of prosecutions.

The unprecedented singling out of a category of case coming before the Crown Court has been agreed by the newly created Criminal Justice Consultative Council, which formulates policy and procedure with the key participants in the criminal justice system.

Prosecuting authorities and those handling children's cases are concerned at the low number of child sex abuse allegations which result in convictions; only some 10 per cent end up in court.

A year ago, reforms were introduced to allow interviews with children to be video-taped and admitted as evidence in court, but the measure has had little impact. According to the Crown Prosecution Service, interviews with 10,000 children have been video-taped in connection with allegations of child sex abuse, but only 23 cases have reached a criminal court.

Lord Justice Farquharson, the appeal court judge who chairs the consultative council, said members had agreed to advise the area committees (local groups of judges, magistrates, police and probation authorities) that child abuse cases should be expedited.

As a result, they should be heard within weeks rather than months. The judge said: "This is directed towards enabling child witnesses to get their evidence over as quickly as they can, thereby lessening

the strain and fear for the child."

The idea of putting sex abuse cases on a fast track came from a circuit judge, Judge Crane, in Peterborough. Lord Justice Farquharson said it had been recommended to the area committees, who would decide whether it was appropriate in particular cases.

Despite the reforms on video-taping of evidence, many feel that not enough has been done to help children and that there is still too much distrust about the reliability of their testimonies.

Children still have to attend court to face live cross examination on what they said on the video tape, although this may now be done from an adjoining room via a television monitor so they do not have to face their alleged abuser.



Farquharson: keen to lessen the ordeal

Judge tells TV news to hand over riot film

FOUR television companies were ordered by a court yesterday to hand over to police film taken at the scene of riots in east London last month.

Judge Butler QC, the senior judge at Southwark Crown Court, south London, said establishing the guilt or innocence of those involved "far outweighed" any loss of integrity which might be suffered by the media. He made orders under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 that the BBC, Sky News, ITN and London News Network hand over unedited footage of the riots in Whitechapel, east London, on September 10.

The BBC and Sky News had argued that if they handed over the material it would put in question their "integrity and impartiality". It could also endanger the future safety of journalists and photographers, they claimed.

But Judge Butler said: "Public interest far outweighs the perceived loss of integrity and the risks to photographers and other employees." Quoting precedent in a similar case, he said that "those guilty of a crime should be brought to justice and the innocent acquitted or eliminated from enquiries."

The violence erupted during a "peace vigil" outside the Royal London Hospital for Quaius Ali, an Asian student who was on a life support machine following an attack by white youths. Five members of the public and 31 police officers were injured, some of them seriously. Nine people were arrested for public order and other offences.

Alcohol helpline launched

By ANDREW PIERCE

BRITAIN'S first national alcohol helpline was launched yesterday, as a report revealed that one in four primary schoolchildren drink alcohol every week.

Lady Parkinson, the chairman of Drinkline, targeted teachers who enjoy "liquid lunches" in the light of the

findings of Exeter University's school health education unit. The unit sent questionnaires to 220 schools and found that 50,000 children aged between eight and 11 were drinking almost every other day.

Lady Parkinson said: "It is not much good for teachers, who are supposed to provide guidance on such matters, coming back to the classroom

after a liquid lunch, smelling of alcohol. They have to set a better and positive example."

Dr Brian Mawhinney, the health minister, who announced funding of £300,000 over the next three years, said: "There are too many people in this country who drink too much. Over 25 per cent of men do and over 10 per cent of women."

Return of the scooter takes shine off show's superbikes

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE scooter, the trendy two-wheeler of the 1960s that was once a fashion accessory as essential as the mini-skirt and Parka jacket, is on its way back.

Scooters are the surprise stars of the International Motorcycle Show, which opens today at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. Of 43 new models at the show, many of them superbikes of gleaming chrome, 14 are scooters and mopeds aimed at a new group of travellers tired of traffic jams and frightened by spiralling petrol prices.

Motorcycle manufacturers say that a scooter, which can cost just £1,000, can be

ridden by most car drivers immediately and offers up to 150 miles a gallon.

Linda Smoot, president of the Motorcycle Retailers Association who runs her own motorcycle showroom in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, said yesterday that small bikes were ideal for commuters.

"We are seeing more and more people who are tired of the congestion in cities and want a cheap, easy and fairly environmentally friendly way of getting around," she said.

Vespa, one of the most famous names, is at the Birmingham show and still in its most recognisable

form: the TS, an upright, single-cylinder, two-stroke with four-speed gearbox and a top speed of 54mph. The company has sold 800 50cc machines already this year, as many as in the whole of 1992.

Clive Mills, general secretary of the Vespa Club of Britain, said the day of the scooter had returned. "Our club was formed in 1952 and we saw the boom years in the 1960s when scooters were popular because that was all they could afford," he said. "Now people who turned to cars are returning to scooters because they make sense on our crowded roads."

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THE
WORLD
CHAMP

Battle resume

By RAYMOND BEEBE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

ROR the first time
Garry Kasparov
Short have
heavyweight
the world
Now he is
Exhibitor
at the Savoy
London today.
Saturday Evening
and Short will
game and another
minute games
bers of the
commentators. The
game between
Short lasting at

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8	
7	
6	
5	X
4	
3	i
2	
1	i

a b c d
TODAY'S CHECK

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TODAY'S WINNER will be announced tomorrow. There were no winners yesterday.

Sex advisers give Oxford freshers the third degree



Mark Almond: harassment threat exaggerated

■ The love lives of Oxford students are being monitored as never before — but they are still having fun

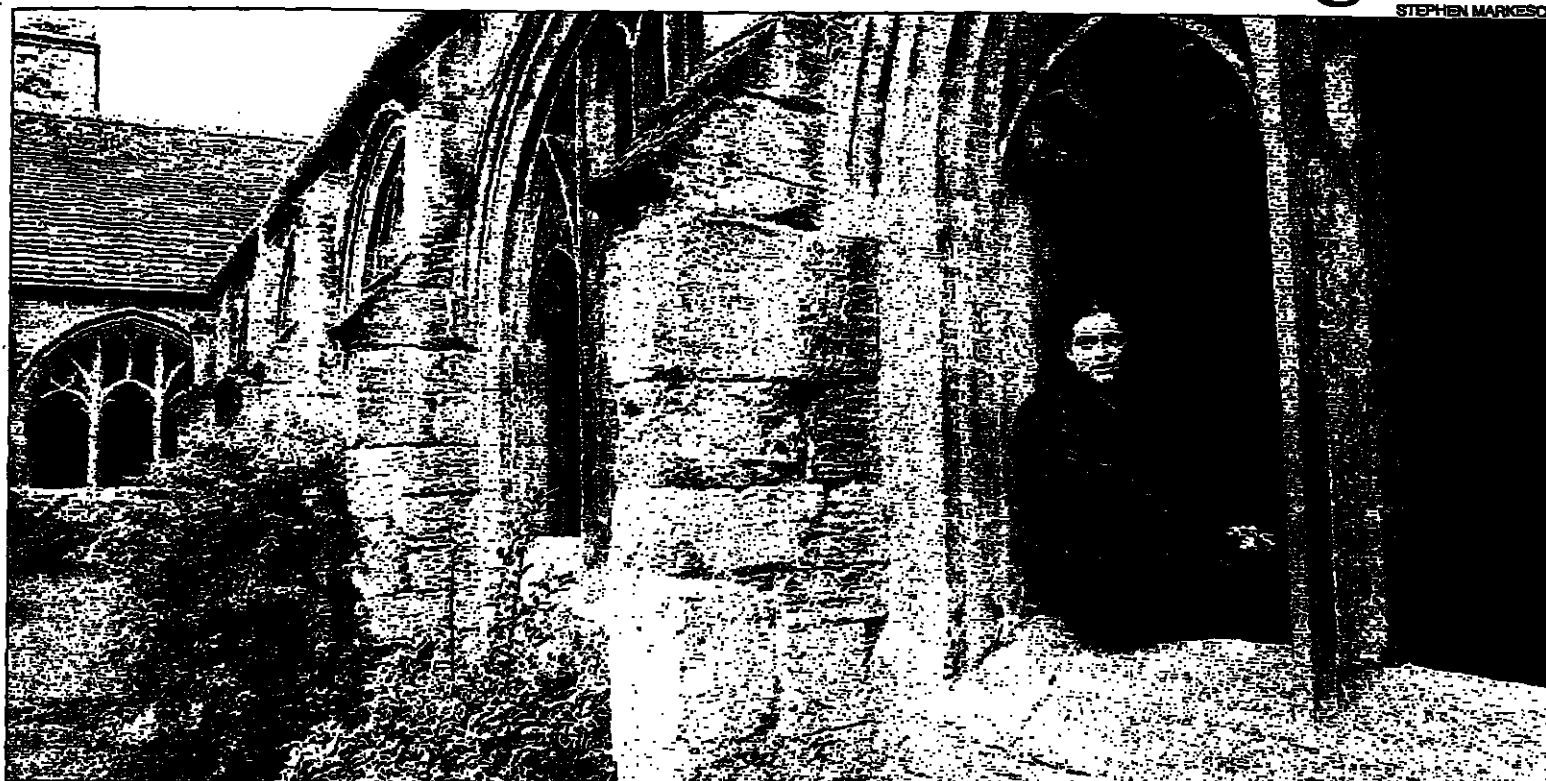
By WALTER ELLIS

"IF you are determined to have your wicked way, don't despair... lots of people are rumoured to get their oats in the alcohol haze that is freshers' week."

This observation, as dispassionate as it is cynical, comes not from one of those sex-obsessed women's magazines that increasingly encourage their readers to treat men as sex objects. It is from an article in a freshers' guide to Oxford published this month by the student newspaper *Cherwell*.

Its author, Florence Campbell, 19, is in her third year reading politics, philosophy and economics at New College and claims to know what she is talking about. Describing herself as "the woman who was once told [by a student voyeur who saw her making love] 'many men would pay good money for a performance like that,'" she says she is an authority on "the humiliation, embarrassment and discomfort that is sex at Oxford."

She might well be. She is also, however, enough of a realist to caution the latest generation of bright young things against going too far. "Bear in mind," she tells them, "that two minutes of



Florence Campbell claims to be a victim and an authority on "the humiliation, embarrassment and discomfort that is sex at Oxford"

goosey near-satisfaction followed by weeks of haunting guilt is so much more easily attained at Haagen-Dazs."

Following last week's court case involving Austen Donnellan and "Miss X", both of King's College London, in which Mr Donnellan was unanimously acquitted of rape, there has been much speculation on the nature, and quantity, of student sex and on the mechanisms set up to prevent women being harassed by

fellow undergraduates and tutors.

Oxford, we were told, was groaning not so much beneath the weight of congress as under pressure from harassment advisers — no fewer than 247 of whom, according to Paul Johnson in *The Spectator*, have been appointed to ensure that every kiss, every gesture was consistent with women's wishes.

The good news is that, in spite of the spread of political correctness, sexual activity

goes on. Elizabeth Palaiz, junior proctor at the university, in charge of discipline, has chaired the advisory panel on harassment for the past year. She agrees that there are many advisers, but points out that most have been in place for years on a purely voluntary basis, and rarely have anything to report.

"Most complaints," she says, "arise from one party in a relationship refusing to accept that there has been a complete and irreparable

breakdown of affection. Unrequited love is quite common."

Oxford was for centuries a male-only institution and the colleges, even 20 years after the first experiments in co-education, are still not entirely reconciled to the change.

Catherine Evans, deputy president and women's officer at the Oxford students' union, feels there is still too much harassment around. "Most of it is at the level of lewd comments in the bar or male students touching you up in

the corridors," she said. However, Dr Mark Almond, a history lecturer at Oriel, believes the threat is exaggerated. "No one says any longer, 'lie back and think of your examination results'."

Norman Stone, professor of modern history at Oxford, is another who believes that the harassment debate produces more heat than light. His diagnosis: "They ought never to have let control of the colleges out of the hands of elderly gays."

THE TIMES WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Battle resumes in the fast lane

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

FOR the past seven weeks, Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short have provided superb heavyweight entertainment in the world championship. Now the format changes.

Exhibition games continue at the Savoy Theatre in London today, Thursday and Saturday. Each day Kasparov and Short contest one speed game and continue with five-minute games against members of the audience and commentators. Then follows a game between Kasparov and Short lasting an hour and a

half, centring on a classic theme opening. Kasparov leads the speed chess challenge 1-0, and the first game of the theme openings was a draw.

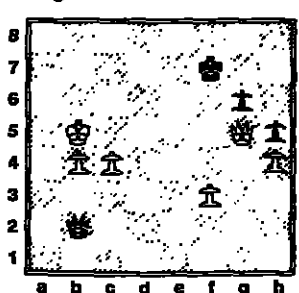
The Times has arranged free entry to the Savoy Theatre for those under 16, subject to seat availability. Seats will be available on a first come, first served basis from half an hour before the start of play.

The first speed game, played on Saturday, was a closely fought French Defence, where Kasparov manoeuvred brilliantly to exploit Short's isolated queen's pawn. The coup de grace was move 44.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Nigel Short
French Defence

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 1 e4 | e6 |
| 2 d4 | c5 |
| 3 Nc3 | Nf6 |
| 4 Ng3 | exd5 |
| 5 exd5 | Bd7 |
| 6 Bb5+ | Bx7 |
| 7 Bxd7+ | O-O |
| 8 O-O | Re8 |
| 9 Re1 | Ne5 |
| 10 Nf1 | Re8 |
| 11 Bc5 | Ne5 |
| 12 Be3 | a6 |
| 13 c3 | Rc8 |
| 14 Qc2 | Qc7 |
| 15 Rad1 | b5 |
| 16 Bb4 | Nc4 |
| 17 Ne3 | Rd8 |
| 18 a3 | Bb8 |
| 19 Qd3 | Qc6 |
| 20 Ne5 | Qc7 |
| 21 Nd3 | Bd6 |
| 22 g3 | Qc8 |
| 23 Bx6 | Nd8 |
| 24 Nd4 | Bd4 |
| 25 Bxb4 | b6 |
| 26 Bb4 | Re5 |
| 27 Red1 | Qh3 |
| 28 Qc2 | Rde6 |
| 29 Rh4 | Qe6 |
| 30 Rhd4 | Qh3 |
| 31 Rh4 | Qe6 |
| 32 Qd3 | Kf8 |
| 33 Rd4 | Qh3 |
| 34 Qh1 | Qe6 |
| 35 Rf1d3 | Re4 |
| 36 Qd1 | Rxd4 |
| 37 Rxd4 | Rd8 |
| 38 Kg2 | Rd7 |
| 39 Qd3 | g5 |
| 40 h3 | Kg7 |
| 41 Qd1 | h5 |
| 42 Qf3 | Ne4 |
| 43 Nc5 | Ng5 |
| 44 Nf4 | Qb6 |
| 45 Qc3 | Qc6+ |
| 46 g | Rd4 |
| 47 Qxd4+ | Kh7 |
| 48 Qd5 | Qh6 |
| 49 h4 | Ne6 |
| 50 Nxe6 | fxe6 |
| 51 Qb7+ | Kf6 |
| 52 Qxe6 | Qe5 |
| 53 Qb2 | Qe2+ |
| 54 Qf2 | Qd1 |
| 55 Qe3+ | Kg7 |
| 56 Kf2 | Qh1 |
| 57 Qxe6 | Qh2+ |
| 58 Ke3 | Qe3 |
| 59 Qe7+ | Kg8 |
| 60 Qg5 | Qe1+ |
| 61 Kd4 | Kf7 |
| 62 Kc5 | Qf2+ |
| 63 Kxb6 | Qxb2 |
| 64 O4 | |

and with his extra pawns, Kasparov won easily. Short losing on time on move 62.



The official book of the championship (Kasparov-Short 1993, Batsford, £7.99) was in the shops 36 hours after Kasparov retained his title.

Winning Move, page 40

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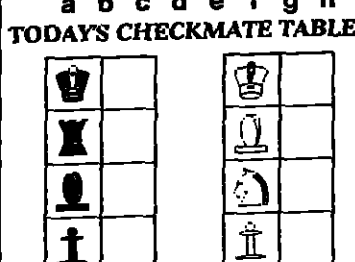
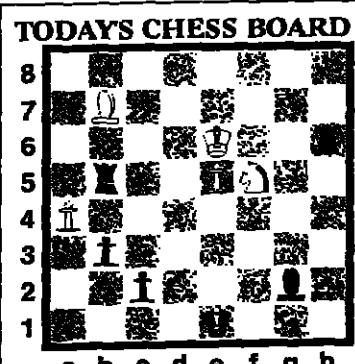
THE TIMES checkmate

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□ TODAY'S WINNER will be announced in *The Times* tomorrow. There were no winners yesterday.

High-flying Attali twins fall to earth with a crash



Jacques Attali: accused of plagiarising Nobel writer

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

AS TWINS, the high-flying Attali boys always did things together, even posing in their youth as each other to fool their girlfriends. Together they won armfuls of degrees from the same top colleges and, in parallel, they soared to the pinnacles of French power while only in their forties. Now, in a fraternal annus horribilis, they have crashed spectacularly within months of each other.

First Jacques was driven by the "Marblegate" affair last July from the Bank for European Reconstruction and Development and then suffered greater ignominy inside France for allegedly pirating passages from a book from Elie Wiesel, the Nobel laureate. Now, Bernard has been forced to resign from his job as boss of Air France after the government made peace over his head with striking unions.

Sympathisers argue that the owlish-looking pair, who turn fifty next Monday, paid the price

of their affiliation with the Socialist government whose patronage they enjoyed. Jacques, the civil servant, novelist, historian and philosopher was first catapulted to the heights as adviser and gatekeeper to President Mitterrand in the early 1980s. Though less identified with the socialists, Bernard, the financial whizz and manager, also owed his advancement through the state-run insurance sector to the family political connection.

But for their detractors, the *surdoués* (child prodigies) Attalis paid the price for a certain arrogance. Just as the media-mad Jacques won admiration but rarely affection throughout his meteoric and very public rise, so the less publicity-hungry Bernard

made few friends in his five years at the head of the giant state airline. His troubles with the unions stem from his inability to delegate, a trait which, combined with his small stature, led to his nickname Napoleon. The pair share the same shy demeanour and preoccupation with their appearances. Bernard is famous for wearing both belt and braces.

While foreign detractors may be indulging in a little *schadenfreude* over the come-uppance to a typically French kind of arrogance, it is worth noting that, as Jewish *piéds noirs* born in colonial Algeria, the "terrible twins" have suffered from never being accepted by the tight-knit French elite whose ranks they scaled. Jacques complained last summer

that he was doubly cursed in the eyes of the Anglo-Saxons, for being both French and Jewish.

It is clear to the most amateur of psychologists that their origins as outsiders helped spur the pair, fuelling their phenomenal ambition and dedication to work. "Jacques seems strangely unsure of his own intellectual standing" said Michel Gurfinkel, editor of the *Valeurs Actuelles* magazine when the banker ran into scandal last July.

The drive to prove himself led Jacques into the murky field of plagiarism. While serving as Mitterrand's Henry Kissinger in the 1980s he drew whole pages from another author in a treatise on the history of time, one of his 18 dazzling dissertations and novels. According to the Paris political classes, it was such over-reaching which caused Mitterrand finally to lose patience with his protégé last summer.

Bernard and Jacques started their rise after their father, Simon, a colonial perfume salesman, brought them to Paris and set up

house in a flat next to their lycée and dedicated himself to supervising their education. They then followed similar paths up to the *École Nationale de l'Administration*, the post-graduate nursery of France's elite.

Jacques moved through the anti-rooms of political power and eventually to the Elysée. There he made a multitude of enemies guarding the president's door and overruling the ideas of ministers. Even enemies recognised his brilliance, though they were irked by his self-importance.

Bernard passed more discreetly through the high civil service and the private sector, specialising in insurance. He served for a time as financial director of the Club Méditerranée then, just 40 years old, president of the giant state insurance firm GAN. The arrival of a Gaullist government ended his tenure in 1986. In 1988, with the socialists back in power, a bout of musical chairs ended with him in the top seat at Air France although he had no experience in the transport industry.



Bernard Attali: was unable to delegate at Air France

Balladur's surrender fails to curb air strike

BY CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FRANCE expects a day of airline paralysis today after the government's surrender to Air France strikers failed to avert union plans for a national stoppage by ground and flying staff.

Dozens of militant farmers joined Air France strikers at Orly yesterday, dumping tonnes of potatoes and leading cattle into the airport perimeter as euphoria over the defeat of the airline's restructuring plan appeared to breed greater defiance. Bernard Attali, the Air France president, resigned on Sunday night after the government of Edouard Balladur intervened to scrap the cost-cutting plan which caused ground staff at Orly and Roissy-Charles de Gaulle to stage often violent strikes

was clearly shaken by the violence and chaos which gripped Paris airports.

The climbdown amounted to the biggest domestic blow to the Balladur administration since it took office last March and it brought questions over the wisdom of caving in to strikers. Elisabeth Guigou, a Socialist and a former minister of European affairs, said the decision "shows the disarray and incoherence of this government". M. Attali, ordered only weeks ago to toughen his restructuring plan, made no secret of his feeling of betrayal by Bernard Bosson, the transport minister.

"The government decided to withdraw the programme for a return to (financial) stability which I considered indispensable for the company's survival," he said. M. Bosson said: "We cannot save Air France while clashing with all its employees."

Commentators said it was obvious that the surrender would make it much harder for M. Attali's successor to transform the state-run airline into a competitive, market-oriented operation. The task is even more daunting for the Air Inter subsidiary.

The government was hoping to privatise the Air France group in 1995, but the prospect seems dim given its protectionist make-up. Outside auditors say it is a web of jealously protected baronies. When he took over in 1988, M. Attali found many pilots making more than himself and benefiting from a range of privileges unmatched by those in more efficient airlines. He wanted to trim 4,000 jobs.

Union leaders said yesterday they would not call off the strike until the job cuts had been formally abandoned. They believe salvation lies in further government support. Nicole Notat, leader of the socialist CFTD said: "Changing a chief executive officer isn't a good way of resolving labour disputes. Still, it's radical and this is a 180-degree turnaround."

Leading article, page 15
Photograph, page 22
UK carriers angry, page 24



The Dalai Lama appearing on a television programme in Paris during a three-week visit to France. The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader said Peking was increasing immigration of Chinese to his homeland, even though they already outnumbered Tibetans. He called for an end to "cultural genocide"

Truth of totalitarian oppression slips away with softly-softly sentencing East Germans decry regime's great escape

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

■ As Erich Honecker enjoys the luxuries of exile, another of his wizened cronies appears to be heading for easy street. The public is outraged and incredulous

VERDICT will be passed today on Erich Mielke, the last of the withered old communists who ruled the extinct East German state. The betting is that Herr Mielke, 85, the former head of the secret police, will be acquitted or be handed down a mild, suspended sentence.

The judgment will mark the end of Germany's grand judicial reckoning with its communist past. There are a few fish still to fry — Markus Wolf, the spy-master accused of treason, and Alexander Schalk Golodowski, East Germany's chief currency dealer — but the most powerful members of the East German leadership can now rest in peace.

Some, such as Heinz Kessler, the defence minister, can serve out sentences at home. Others, like Erich Honecker, are passing their last days in exile.

It is the fate of Herr Honecker and Herr Mielke

that most bothers former East Germans. The other day, a German skier saw Herr Honecker and his wife Margot in a mountain chalet in Chile, drinking and eating in an expensive restaurant. The skier filmed the couple through the window. The reaction in Germany, when the video footage was shown, was of outrage. Herr Honecker was allowed to slip out of Germany because doctors claimed he was fatally ill with a liver tumour — yet here he was evidently enjoying himself in a glamorous setting. At home in Germany, meanwhile, lowly border guards — who shot escaping East Ger-

mans — are still being tried on charges of manslaughter and even murder.

Earlier this month a group of old comrades gathered in the former offices of the Free German Youth — where Herr Honecker met and fell in love with Margot — to celebrate the 44th anniversary of the founding of the East German state. Someone had the idea to ring Chile. Herr Honecker came on the line and, overcome with emotion, spoke in the only way he knows: in long-winded, clumsy politburo German.

"In these times there are many questions concerning the future and the present and I am pleased that you have

managed to find your way to my old work desk, my place of struggle."

Nervous laughter rippled through the room, which is still decorated with socialist banners.

For Berliners, the Mielke trial exposes the absurdity of it all. "The trial is futile," says Stefan Liebknecht, a doctor who works in the east of the city. "He should be on trial not for a six-year-old crime but for what he did to us, the East Germans. He was the worst of them all."

It is precisely the difficulty of judging the sins of a communist regime in the courts of a democratic state that has forced the prosecutors to dig up an old, unpunished murder case against Herr Mielke. He is accused of shooting two Berlin policemen while he was a young communist street agitator in the Weimar republic. For Dora Zimmermann, 73, daughter of

one of the murdered policemen, the trial is of personal significance, a final settling of accounts. But for the many victims of the 85,000 full-time secret agents run by Herr Mielke, there are many questions still to be addressed. The tragedy of Germany's merciful approach to the *ancien régime* is not so much that bad men are allowed to go free, but that the history of the East remains clouded.

Soon there will be nobody left to answer the question of who did what to whom. Listen to Herr Mielke in court: "When we ruled, order and peace and quiet prevailed. The people could go out in the streets at night, the women, absolutely everyone!" Nobody contradicted him in the courtroom — and perhaps in a decade or so, when all the heroes of socialism are buried, people will believe him.

Economic discord, page 24

NEWS IN BRIEF

Aldo Moro murder mystery deepens

Rome: The mystery over the 1978 murder of Aldo Moro by the Red Brigades deepened yesterday after Mario Moretti, a leader of the terrorists, disclosed that he was the gunman who shot and killed the Christian Democrat statesman (John Phillips writes).

"I would never have allowed anyone else to do it," Moretti was quoted as saying in an interview broadcast by Italian radio. In the past another member of the Marxist group, Prospero Gallinari, had always been thought to have fired the fatal burst on May 9, 1978.

But last week Adriana Faranda, a member of the team that kidnapped Signor Moro and killed his police bodyguards, told magistrates that Moretti, together with Germano Maccari, a left-wing militant arrested in Rome earlier this month, were the gunmen.

Maccari has denied involvement, but he and Moretti were formally charged in prison last Thursday, by magistrates carrying out the fifth investigation into the affair. The latest revelations have led to a nationwide debate with magistrates urging the former terrorists to disclose all the hidden truth about the affair and the former terrorists asking the state to grant them an amnesty before they do so.

Missile pact

Kiev: Ukraine is to sign an agreement with America on dismantling its nuclear missiles, Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, said on a visit here. The agreement also allows for the release of about \$116 million of American aid for Ukraine. (AFP)

Field notes

Moscow: Russia has drawn up rules allowing agricultural land to be bought and sold, facilitating the transfer of state-owned farms to private hands. But the draft decree will not force big collective farms to divide land into smaller units. (Reuters)

Surface mail

Kampen: A Dutch woman has received a letter from France, answering a note she put in a bottle 11 years ago. The bottle apparently floated from a stream in The Netherlands to the Arctic Ocean, before washing up near Biarritz. (AFP)

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T28/93

Israel frees low-risk detainees to help Arafat sell accord

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

Israeli hardliners say Yitzhak Rabin is being too generous to the PLO, which he is convinced has rejected violence, while its officials demand more detainee releases

SEVERAL hundred Palestinian prisoners were freed yesterday by Israel, in the first concrete move towards reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians since their peace agreement last month.

In one of the largest releases of its kind by Israel for nearly a decade, the first of about 700 low-risk prisoners — women, youth, elderly men and sick inmates — were driven from jails and detention camps to their homes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in what was likely to be a two-day operation.

The main purpose of the release is to help Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, prove to the nearly two million Palestinians in the occupied territories that their lives will improve under the

peace deal, a point made by one of the first prisoners to be freed. "Thank God, we love the PLO and our leader Abu Ammar [Arafat]. God willing, all the prisoners will be freed," said a Fatah activist released from the Megiddo prison in central Israel.

Yesterday's goodwill gesture was seen as the first instalment of what could become a much broader release of most, or all, of the estimated 10,000 Palestinians held in Israeli facilities. Their fate will be decided when negotiations between Israel and the PLO resume in the Egyptian resort of Taba today.

Although friends and relatives began celebrations last night at the homes of freed prisoners in the villages of the West Bank and the refugee camps of Gaza, the number of prisoners freed was criticised by PLO officials as too small and by Israeli hardliners as too large. "Today's release brings a mixed response. People are happy but generally they feel this is not enough," said Ziad Abu Ziad, the chief Palestinian negotiator on prisoners. "For us this is not a bargaining issue. The prisoners must be released as most were imprisoned for political activity."

But many Israelis see the partial amnesty as over-generous, particularly since Israeli forces are still being targeted for attack by opponents of the peace agreement, in particular the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. A teenage Palestinian member of Hamas was arrested in the Gaza Strip after a botched car-bomb attack that injured two Israeli prison officers. The incident coincided with the funerals of two Israeli reserve soldiers, who were kidnapped and murdered on Sunday in Gaza, in what the group termed "a gift to the peace process".

In response, Israeli troops rounded up 30 suspected supporters of the group, including a freelance reporter for the Associated Press news agency. Muslim militants, who were to be freed yesterday, were kept behind bars for the foreseeable future.

What Israelis fear most is that their prisoner releases, aimed at boosting confidence between the two sides, will do little to halt the violence and could prompt fresh attacks, similar to the aftermath of the huge prisoner-exchange deal in 1985 with the Palestinian guerrilla chief, Ahmed Jibril.

Moshe Katav, a Knesset member for the main opposition Likud party, accused the left-wing coalition government, led by Yitzhak Rabin, of freeing "terrorists".

But Mr Rabin insisted he was satisfied that the PLO had stopped taking part in violent actions.



Kim Campbell, the Conservative Party leader, keeping the spirits of her supporters up yesterday as the count of votes cast in the Canadian general election continued into the night. Jean Chrétien, the Liberal Party leader, who was dismissed by his opponents as yesterday's man, was poised to become the country's

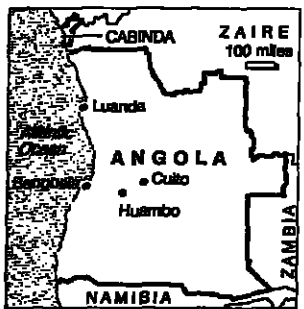
twentieth prime minister and her successor (Edward Greenspan in Ottawa writes). Mr Chrétien, 59, who served in ten cabinet positions from 1967 to 1984, struck a chord with Canadians, particularly in the economically under-developed Atlantic region and recession-battered Ontario, with a campaign message of hope

and deliverance. The 18th of 19 children, Mr Chrétien has always been a political battler. Despite a childhood illness that left him deaf in one ear and the right side of his face partially paralysed, he is a gregarious politician with a penchant for emotion-laden speeches about the greatness of Canada. Mr

Chrétien is unpopular among Quebec's French-speaking majority for his role in rewriting the Canadian constitution in 1981 over the objections of the provincial government. He further angered Quebecers by opposing the failed 1990 constitutional accord that would have made concessions to Quebec.

UN aide accuses Europe of letting Angolans perish

FROM SAM KILEY IN LUANDA



THOUSANDS of Angolans could die in the next month because of the failure of the European Community and other nations to respond to appeals for aid launched in June, the head of the United Nations humanitarian operations in the country said yesterday.

Speaking in Luanda, the capital, Manuel da Silva, the director of the humanitarian assistance co-ordination unit, criticised Europeans for ignoring the tragedy in Angola. "We have not had a single dollar from the EC, although we launched an appeal for \$226 million [£151 million] in June," Senhor da Silva said.

George Chikoty, the Angolan deputy foreign minister, told the Commonwealth summit in Limassol, Cyprus, that up to half a million people — 5 per cent of the population — may have died in the past year as a result of the civil conflict.

Heavy fighting has barred aid workers from most of the worst affected cities in the country where the majority of the 1,000 deaths a day are occurring. Senhor da Silva admitted that the civil war between the government and the Union for the Total Independence of Angola had restricted access to needy areas and discouraged donors from taking an interest.

"But now we have the chance to get into cities such as Cuito (which is being besieged by UNITA rebels), Huambo (under attack from the government), and others. Yet we have very little to take in. If a major tragedy is going to be avoided, we need pledges from the outside world immediately. I have been very, very surprised by the lack of response from such a major donor [as the European Community]," Senhor

da Silva said that the UN Children's Fund was having to borrow drugs from the Angolan government to start measles immunisation programmes in the war zones, including behind UNITA lines. Most of the UN's funding of \$59 million raised this year has come from Sweden and America. He thanked the UK Overseas Development Agency (ODA) for reacting quickly to the UN's appeal for emergency funds and support for the starving in Luanda.

Blankets, cooking pots, tents and other items worth £5 million were landed in Luanda from Britain last weekend in an ODA operation the UN described as perfect. "The UN system is ready to go. We know that smaller aid agencies are far more efficient than us and we are taking them into some of the worst areas. We will back them up. However to do that we need money and resources that we simply do not have," Senhor da Silva said.

Delegates from UNITA and the government were expected to arrive in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, yesterday for discussions with the UN, but most observers saw the talks as an attempt to stall the introduction of sanctions against the rebel movement, led by Dr Jonas Savimbi, threatened by the UN for the end of this month.



Jibril: prisoner exchange led to more violence

Commonwealth ends pariah status of South Africa after 30 years

FROM NICHOLAS WOOD IN LIMASSOL

COMMONWEALTH leaders issued a formal invitation to South Africa yesterday to return to the fold after more than 30 years as an international pariah, responding to Pretoria's moves towards democracy and the dismantling of apartheid by announcing they were lifting all economic sanctions.

But the United Nations arms embargo will remain in place until after the country's first non-racial elections in April.

In a setback for Chief Emetse Anyaoku, the Nigerian secretary-general of the Com-

monwealth, the heads of government downgraded his plans for a more interventionist role for the Commonwealth in world troublespots. Paul Keating, the Australian prime minister, said that it should not try to become a mini-UN devoted to crisis management.

The conference theme of "global humanitarian order" merited only one paragraph in the communiqué issued at the end of the five-day meeting. Leaders of the 47 national delegations at the conference settled for a report from an intergovernmental group for further consideration. In a

sign that the Commonwealth wants its rhetoric about human rights and democracy to have teeth, Cameroon was told that its application for membership would be reviewed in two years in the light of its progress in these areas. However, there are no plans to expel existing members such as Nigeria and Sierra Leone, which are run by military dictatorships.

The communiqué also confirmed the Commonwealth's support for a conclusion to the Gait round of world trade talks by December 15 and the dispatch of a five-nation task

force to lobby countries such as France and Japan.

John Major won support for a Commonwealth-wide crackdown on money laundering by drug dealers and other international criminals. Member states agreed to tighten their banking laws to identify suspicious cash transactions.

The prime minister said that the Commonwealth should aim for democratic governments in all 50 member states by the 1995 conference in New Zealand.

Turkey warned, page 1

ANC talks with Right end in failure

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN
IN JOHANNESBURG

TALKS between the African National Congress and the Freedom Alliance, a coalition of white rightwingers and homeland leaders, broke up yesterday without agreement, dealing a severe blow to hopes that the differences between them could be bridged.

With only two weeks left to their deadline of November 5, the politicians trying to draw up an interim constitution have begun intensive bilateral negotiations. Yesterday's failure was a key setback.

When the two sides met they agreed on an agenda, but nothing else. Both sides

repeated their commitment to negotiations, but privately conceded there appeared little chance of them meeting again soon.

Today the ANC starts talks with the government, in which the new crisis will be discussed. The alliance is due to meet the government on Thursday.

The government and the ANC hope to sort out differences on the power allocated to regions and central government. The government also wants to extract from the ANC what is meant by power-sharing during the next five years.

Hernus Kriel, the law and order minister, yesterday met senior police chiefs to plan how to deal with the Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union The

activities of the black union have raised fears that the police will be polarised on racial lines, as white policemen respond by forming a right-wing union, under the auspices of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement of Eugene Terre-Blanche.

Terre-Blanche and ten others were found guilty yesterday on charges of public violence, after the "Battle of Ventersdorp" in which the neo-Nazi leader and his followers clashed with police as they tried to break up a meeting addressed by President de Klerk in August 1991. Three people died and three policemen were injured in the clash.

ANC training, page 2
Leading article, page 15

Burundi ministers stay in hiding

Bujumbura: Burundi's army urged government ministers to come out of hiding and run the country swept by violence since soldiers murdered President Ndayizeze last week.

The government, led by Sylvie Kinigi, the prime minister, is taking refuge in an embassy where it has refused to give amnesty to the army and says it will not negotiate with the coup plotters until they disarm and return to barracks. More than 300,000 people have fled Burundi since last week's military coup. Over 250,000 refugees have so far arrived in neighbouring Rwanda. About 40,000 escaped into Tanzania and 15,000 to Zaire. (Reuters)

Somali clashes leave ten dead

Mogadishu: As many as ten Somalis were killed and 45 wounded yesterday in a fierce battle between rival clans along the "Green Line" dividing the capital, a UN spokesman said.

Witnesses said the fighting started when fighters loyal to the clan leader Muhammad Farrah Aidid fired at a crowd from northern Mogadishu heading for a peace rally in General Aidid's southern fiefdom. Gunmen from the north, led by Ali Mahdi Muhammad, General Aidid's chief rival, returned fire and some hurled grenades. (Reuters)

Casual glance led to trial

Singapore: A casual glance at economic figures lying on a table may have led to the trial of senior journalists and economists under Singapore's tough Official Secrets Act. A tough government economist said the document was graded "secret" but was not marked classified.

Poll apology by Tokyo TV chief

Tokyo: Japanese Liberal Democratic Party MPs questioned a former television executive in parliament about whether his network had slanted political reporting before last July's election that ended their party's 35 years in power.

Sadayoshi Tsubaki, former managing director of Asahi National Broadcasting, apologised for "careless, inappropriate" remarks to other broadcasters. He reportedly boasted that his network contributed to the defeat, but denies any bias. (AP)

Carter asked to allay MPs' fears by appearing before Haiti parliament

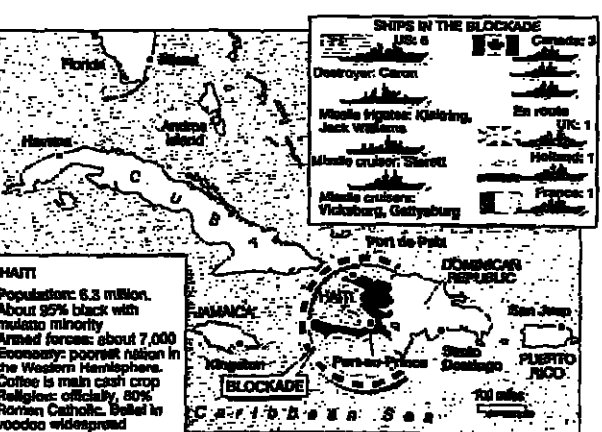
FROM DAVID ADAMS IN PORT-AU-PRINCE AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

DANTE Caputo, the United Nations special envoy to Haiti, yesterday revealed that he was asking Jimmy Carter, the former American president, and other international elder statesmen to fly to Port-au-Prince in the next two days to help restore democracy.

Still striving to achieve the return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the ousted president, by Saturday's UN deadline, Mr Caputo said he had asked Mr Carter and other former leaders to appear before Haiti's national assembly to reassure parliamentarians who are terrified that armed thugs loyal to the military regime will attack them if they meet.

One precondition, set by the military regime, for Mr Aristide's return is that parliament should pass laws separating army and police, and grant amnesty to those who overthrew Mr Aristide in the 1991 coup. The thugs, known as "attachés", violently disrupted parliament this month and it has not met since.

"We need witnesses for this process," said Mr Caputo. "We need the presence of different leaders of the world who have worked for democracy and human rights. Their



presence here will be a moral force in the country."

Mr Caputo said that invitations had been extended to Brian Mulroney, the former Canadian prime minister, Michael Manley, the former Jamaican prime minister, as well as leaders from Europe and Latin America.

The latest proposal, which also calls for the inclusion of anti-Aristide politicians in government, is being considered by UN officials and the pro-Aristide administration led by Robert Malval, the prime minister. For the plan to work, Mr Aristide would have

to call a special session of parliament by today.

The plan has received the grudging approval of Washington. "We are not euphoric about all of this but neither is the sky falling," Stanley Schragar, the American embassy spokesman, said. "It's the only ray of light that has pierced the dark cloud that has been hanging over us."

Mr Malval was expected to hold talks yesterday with General Raoul Cedras to follow up a meeting at the weekend in which the army chief reiterated his intention to resign, although he still refused to say

when. Under the accord, reached between Mr Aristide and the military in July, General Cedras should have stepped down 11 days ago.

The new proposal, if feasible, would put the accord back on track. But diplomats cautioned that so many deadlines have passed unobserved and so many pledges have been broken, that it would be foolish to be optimistic. "This is not a country where the constitution for the law are necessarily observed — and that's an understatement," said one diplomat.

On the positive side, the proposal appears to have the backing of a majority of MPs. It has the added advantage of being a home-grown proposal, protecting it from attacks by nationalists who have attempted to sabotage any scheme seen to reflect foreign intervention. "It could provide an honourable way out for the military and an honourable way in for Aristide," said a UN official.

But getting all the MPs to parliament has presented UN officials with a security nightmare. All pro-Aristide MPs are in hiding and some have fled the country.

US bid to shut gas chambers

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

A LAWSUIT in California could shut down all the gas chambers in America if civil rights activists succeed in proving that they deliver a "cruel and unusual punishment" banned by the US constitution.

The American Civil Liberties Union went to court yesterday in San Francisco in an effort to close the gas chamber at San Quentin jail. Among the evidence on hand is a sealed video of the dying moments of Robert Alton Harris, the double murderer who was gassed last year when California started executing inmates again for the first time in 25 years.

Legal experts predict that the lawsuit is unlikely to succeed, given the conservative majority in the US Supreme Court. But if it were to succeed, states still using the gas chamber would have to switch to an alternative.

Only five states still use the gas chamber, and only one of them, Maryland, offers no alternative.

Cheap hotel taxes 'Queen of Mean'

BY JAMES BONE

LEONA Helmsley, the hotel queen who was one of the most celebrated casualties of New York's "roaring eighties", has been ordered to serve out her sentence for tax evasion in a halfway house in the shadow of her husband's Empire State Building.

The so-called "Queen of Mean" will today check into a shabby \$54-a-night (£35) hotel called Le Marquis in midtown Manhattan, which rents out space to the government to accommodate prisoners due to be released into the community. Le Marquis is walking distance from the five luxurious Manhattan hotels owned by her ageing husband's real estate empire, which offer suites for up to \$860 a night.

Residents of the halfway house sleep as many as six to a room, and have to wash the floors and bathtubs. Inmates are woken at 7am and given two hours to wash, dress and leave their rooms. They are searched as they return to their beds to meet the nightly 9pm curfew.

Helmsley, 73, spent 17 months in jail for evading \$1.7 million in taxes by charging everything from a \$12.99 corset to a \$10,000 bust of her



Helmsley: "only little people pay taxes"

dead son to business accounts. She will remain in Le Marquis until January 26, when she is due to be released on three years' probation, during which time she will have to perform 750 hours of community service.

Helmsley earned her title as the "Queen of Mean" because of the way she treated her staff while president of one of her husband's hotels. One employee attributed to her the now famous line: "Only little people pay taxes."

Mafia hit roam Belg

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BRUSSELS

In an unprecedented spate of gangland killings, mafia bosses and big businessmen are being gunned down in Belgium to broad daylight. Five have died this month. Their deaths are believed to be either part of a struggle for control of the cigarette, gambling, foreign currency and petrol markets, or because they have refused to pay protection money.

Forty-eight people have been assassinated in the Belgian capital this year. On October 1, Zoran Stankovic, a former boxer, was shot dead in front of a hundred passers-by in a shopping centre by a killer who is thought to be a Serbian. The theory is that Stankovic died in a revenge killing for which his son was involved. Another source claims that he went too far in extorting money from the owners of a gambling-machine parlor in Belgium.

Netelja Salatic, a clothing and leather merchant, was gunned down three days later with his girlfriend. He is said to have protection money. The biggest name to die this month

has been a Serbian, a convicted mafia boss, Nikola Krstic, who was shot dead in a car in Brussels.

Other victims include a Serbian, a former boxer, and a former footballer.

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The deaths are believed to be either part of a struggle for control of the cigarette, gambling, foreign currency and petrol markets, or because they have refused to pay protection money.

Fear of Greek and Turkish involvement drives Washington to draw line on spread of Yugoslav war

US tries to seize diplomatic initiative in Macedonia

FROM MISHA GLENNY IN SKOPJE

PRESIDENT Clinton may have been frustrated in Bosnia-Herzegovina by what he considers the obstructive behaviour of Britain and France. But there is evidence that the State Department is interested in cornering the policy market around the southern Balkans, in particular around the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

The Macedonian government is worried that the instability in Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia could provoke a conflict in the southern Serbian province of Kosovo between Albanians and Serbs.

Earlier this year, Washington deployed 300 American peacekeepers in Macedonia under the aegis of the United Nations. Since then American diplomats and politicians have been visiting the region with surprising regularity.

"There are indications that



the Americans are drawing a line in Macedonia; the war can come this far but no further," said Slobodan Casule, head of Macedonian radio. "It appears as though they now recognise that a conflict in this country could threaten their fundamental interests in the Mediterranean and even the Near East." Todor Atanovski, personal security adviser to President Gligorov of Macedonia,

said: "There is a great danger that Macedonia's security could be threatened by the conflict to the north. If anything happened here, Nato would have a real problem because Turkey and Greece would find it hard to stay out of the conflict."

The issue confronting the Americans is whether membership of Nato, and in Greece's case of the EC as well, are powerful enough incentives to keep the two southern Balkan nations neutral in the event of war. The strategic importance of Macedonia is a central reason why the country's road to statehood is so difficult to negotiate. But with some discreet diplomacy, Washington is removing some of the obstacles in Skopje's way.

Andreas Papandreu was returned to power in Greece earlier this month, in part

because of his rhetoric on Macedonia. But the State Department has let Athens know that it would be highly displeased if Mr Papandreu's government were to impose an informal economic blockade of Macedonia.

The Achilles' heel of US policy is Serbia, where its influence is nonexistent. If war came to Macedonia, it would probably be sparked off by the collapse of Serbia and a conflict between Albanians and Serbs.

This is why interventionists in Congress would like to see the token force of 300 peacekeepers expand to a force of about 2,000 to 3,000 well-armed soldiers. Although the Clinton administration may wish to draw a line in Macedonia, if the thunderstorm of war rolls across the border, it may wash away the very thin blue line of peacekeepers.



Lord Owen, the European Community mediator, with Karolos Papoulias, Greece's new foreign minister, after a briefing in Athens yesterday on the Balkans conflict. Greece, in dispute with Macedonia, assumes the EC presidency in January

Fighting cuts off only aid route to north Bosnia

■ Muslims who fled Stupni Do, south of Vares, have recounted tales of rape and murder and the village's complete destruction by masked Croat soldiers

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN VARES

AS FIGHTING continued for the sixth day around Vares, sealing the only aid route to northern Bosnia, further evidence emerged last night of a massacre of Muslim civilians by Croat troops.

The few survivors who managed to flee the village of Stupni Do south of Vares brought with them tales of rape and murder and the village's destruction by masked Croat soldiers after the assault on Saturday. "It was like hell — fire everywhere. I saw many bodies. The HVO [the Croats] were throwing them into fires," an old man who had become separated from his family and escaped through the forest said.

Major Daniel Ekberg, commander of a company of Swedish United Nations troops in Vares, said that the Croats had blocked his attempts to reach the village, but that he had seen it burning. He said a further 230 Muslims were held prisoner in a school in Vares. Gunfire had been heard from the building, he said, but the Croats had denied his troops access to investigate.

Muslim troops pushed north yesterday, to a location about two miles outside Vares, as machinegun and mortar

exchanges effectively closed the road to aid convoys. Tension has been mounting in the region over the past fortnight. Largely Croat, the town's overt trade links with Serb forces to the east, which included the free passage for Croat troops and refugees through Serb lines, had angered Muslim commanders. Additionally aid to Muslim villages, among them Stupni Do, was restricted by the Croats.

In response the Bosnian army launched an attack to relieve two of its villages last Tuesday. The operation was successful, but the fighting continued. It seems that Stupni Do was burnt in retaliation for the Croats' setbacks.

The fighting holds particular significance in the light of what happened around Maglaj, now an enclave. There Croat and Serb forces shared a similarly good relationship. When fighting broke out between the HVO and Muslims, the Serbs came to the HVO's assistance with tanks and infantry, and stayed.

A repeat performance would lead to the entire Tuzla region becoming sealed from the rest of Bosnia.

London conference, page 1

Mafia hitmen roam Belgrade

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

In an unprecedented spate of gangland killings, mafia bosses and big businessmen are being gunned down in Belgrade in broad daylight. Five have died this month. Their deaths are believed to be either part of a struggle for control of the cigarette, gambling, foreign currency and petrol markets or because they have refused to pay protection money.

Forty-eight people have been assassinated in the Serb capital this year. On October 1, Zor Stankovic, a former boxer, was shot dead in front of a hundred passers-by in a shopping centre by a killer who is reported to have carried his gun in a violin case. One theory is that Stankovic died in a revenge killing for a gangland murder in which his son was involved. Another source claims that he "went too far in extorting money from the owners of gambling-machine parlours in Belgrade".

Nebojsa Salatic, a clothing and leather merchant, was gunned down three days later with his girlfriend and a 17-year-old relative. He is said to have died for refusing to pay protection money. The biggest name to die this month

has been Radojica Nikcevic, whose fortune is estimated at £27 million. Nikcevic had companies in London, Moscow, Hong Kong and Vienna. He hobnobbed with the rich and famous, including leading Serbian politicians.

Outside Belgrade, gangs are fighting for control of casinos in central Serbia and there have been killings in other towns too.

Belgrade newspapers are awash with rumours and alleged price lists for contract killings. *Politika* claims that small fry can be eliminated for as little as £100.

The paper believes that Nikcevic was murdered for more than £4,000. Another unconfirmed rumour is that the police have let loose a "death squad" in an attempt to curb mafiosi who control large parts of the Serb economy.

Local sources say that some of those killed not only had connections with the Italian Mafia but also with paramilitaries in Bosnia and Croatia. One commentator notes that most of the assassins come from among the ranks of Bosnian Serb fighters.



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Beware this male backlash

The Donnellan case and Shadow cabinet elections have given rise to an air of unworthy male triumphalism, says Matthew Parris

Okay, so Austen Donnellan didn't rape her. Okay, so Labour's silly scheme to promote women to the Shadow cabinet backfired. But to read last week's press commentaries, crowned by the male triumphalist *Sunday Times* at the weekend, you could be forgiven for thinking that rape has now been shown to be a female plot against men, while the idea of trying to boost women in employment has been completely discredited. There is a whiff of male vengeance in the air.

It is at moments like these that the essentially male place that Fleet Street still is obvious. Not that all the crowing about the acquittal of Mr Donnellan or the come-uppance given to Harriet Harman has come from male journalists. Some of the sourest anti-feminist sentiment comes from women. Those who have stayed at home, forsaking other ambitions for their family, can feel a special resentment for those who find a different life.

Those who have done so, making their own way in the media or in politics, often against great odds, can feel that they did it the hard way, and why should others expect an easier ride? Successful female politicians and journalists have become part of Fleet Street's canteen culture, of the Commons' Smoking Room ethos.

In this ethos, two mythical female stereotypes survive as home-objects. One is the aggrieved and whining woman, so obsessed by her griev-

ances that she will not see things straight. The other is the bossy woman who thinks she can play the man's role. We see such women in *The Taming of the Shrew*, in Punch and Judy, and in our whole pantomime tradition. We see them, or imagine that we do, in the woman who accused Mr Donnellan, and in Harman.

The depth of popular dislike for such stereotypes is disturbing, not least — but surely not only — to the left. A play by David Mamet, *Oleanna*, now playing in London, concerns a female student distorted into a monster by the mindset of political correctness, who hounds her 1960s-progressive professor with accusations until, in the last act, he strikes her. Men and women in the West End audience have cheered when this moment arrives. The reaction is causing heart-searching on the left, where the play originates.

I cannot be alone in detecting this, nor in feeling uneasy about it. So much that is good and right about women's liberation has still to anchor itself securely in popular thought.

Last week's backlash showed how shallow that anchorage remains. One failed rape charge and one botched attempt at positive discrimination are taken, with immense satisfaction, to undermine the entire



Donnellan: an overnight hero

women's cause both in the courtroom and the jobs market. They do nothing. The Donnellan affair was simply a criminal prosecution which failed. Many do. The truth about the night in question was probably infinitely more complicated, and subtle, than we are ever likely to know. The woman concerned, who has been vilified, could have made a genuine mistake about what happened. She was very drunk, as scores of male journalists have taken great satisfaction in pointing out. Some of their commentaries have bordered on the

suggestion that, if a woman gets as drunk as that, then anything that happens to her, whether with or without consent, is her fault.

If we men were vulnerable when drunk in the way that women are, then we might be rather less cavalier about blame and rather touchier about what amounts to consent. Mr Donnellan, who has become some sort of hero overnight, was evidently falsely accused, but nevertheless may not feel too proud of his behaviour. Nor should the bicycle-sheds tendency on the Labour backbenches feel too proud of theirs. Obviously, the requirement to vote for four women was crass. Any attempt to make it work better — by "ring-fencing" into the Shadow Cabinet the first four women, for instance — would backfire too. Every time a woman front-bencher who had polled less votes than some male backbencher got up to speak, the heckling would be cruel and dispiriting.

But the conclusion that all "positive discrimination" is a mistake is too easily drawn. All of us, all our lives, indulge in positive discrimination of a hundred kinds, and most of us have benefited from it. Any housemaster or schoolteacher will tell you that there are boys and girls who lack self-confidence and need a special leg-up or opportunities beyond what they

could claim on "merit". Any employer will tell you that there are employees he or she wants to "bring on". Can anybody seriously doubt that a policy of actively recruiting black and Asian police constables makes sense?

Of course, standards should not be lowered, but it is fatuous to say that smoothing the minority's path to the recruiting door does not amount to positive discrimination. It is a question of doing it subtly.

A woman starts with all kinds of handicaps, in the form of the attitudes of those around her and those she holds herself. The only way to change those attitudes is for more women to succeed, conspicuously, yet it is the attitudes themselves that stand in the way of success. That a few will succeed despite them is not the point. A few successful women are no challenge to the assumption that the number of successful women is few.

The number must be increased. If that means finding ways of offering help that would be unavailable to the equivalent male, then so be it. Labour's débacle last week teaches us that if it is not to backfire, then we must be more subtle. Not for a moment does it prove that the aim itself is wrong. The sight on Thursday of all those blotted, smirking faces on all those dimwitted men on Labour's backbenches was proof enough that it is right.

Merit? They must be joking.

We already have enough plastic My ID card must be smart

ON FRIDAY I was quietly exercising my civil right to get lost in a strange town and pull over to consult the map when a policeman tapped on the windscreen. He explained, quite civilly, that a car identical to mine had just been reported stolen and that he should like to see my driving licence. If I didn't have the licence with me, I could present it at a police station within a day or so. Fortunately, the owner of the car had stowed the licence in the glove compartment. The policeman glanced at the piece of pink paper, apologised for troubling me, and plodded happily on his way.

I then crossed the road, went into a shop and paid for £112 worth of goods by cheque. The shop assistant didn't know me from Eve. My bank card guaranteed only £100, but she was happy to hand over the goods after a glimpse of the pink paper. It worked like some sort of magic charm.

So far as proof of identity goes, a driving licence is indeed no more than a

disembodied for the good of medical science. I do not regard it as a breach of my civil liberties to be asked for them, any more than pensioners and the unemployed so regard it when asked for proof of status before being given free or reduced-price tickets on trains or in galleries.

The French are not obliged to carry their ID cards, but most do because it is useful to have a single means of identification. The fact that they are a hang-over from the German occupation seems to worry no one, and I see that 78 per cent of Britons polled recently are similarly unworried. Not unreasonably, they imagine that universal ID cards may help against terrorism. That such cards should help against social security fraud, the target of Mr Major's proposal, seems certain as long as — and it is an important caveat — the technology is right.

Smart cards, the kind which incorporate a computer chip in the card, have



MARGOT NORMAN

their information encrypted and are virtually impossible to copy. The Germans have recently introduced national health insurance smart cards loaded with personal medical details. We should follow their lead and reject any temptation to go for the

cheaper but vastly more cheatable plastic-strip cards used by banks and credit card companies.

According to the company De La Rue, whose business worldwide is divided between making banknotes and selling payment systems of varying levels of electronic sophistication, it must now be admitted that plastic cards are fairly easy to copy. At the moment, plastic cards cost pennies and smart cards more than a pound, but the price is dropping as demand increases.

IF WE are thinking straight, we cannot deny that it is time to upgrade the technology used by the departments of social security and employment, the police and the health service. If £1 billion of benefits is going into the wrong pockets every year, an enormous investment is justified to put the situation right. It is not as though this will involve throwing away magnetic strip decoding terminals as used in banking and retailing. The technology we need to upgrade is a matter of pencils, sheaves of paper and cardboard-covered files mouldering in basements where rats nibble the corners.

And just think, one day when the banks et al have upgraded their terminals we'll be able to get all our financial, medical, car-owning, club-belonging information onto one card and have slimline wallets again.

Why are we bent on nostalgic notions of steam when today's trains need urgent attention, asks Nicholas Faith

Age of the train, stuck in a siding

Whenever I tell my British friends that I am working on a book or television series about railways, they invariably assume that it is yet another set of "Great Railways Journeys", or another exploration into Steamland, the country populated by Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends.

Foreigners react quite differently. They assume that I'm talking about the rediscovery of the railways as a means of transport which will be almost as crucial in the 21st century as it was in the 19th. They assume that I'm reporting on the new lines they're building, the ones which already have trains running on them — not just in France and Japan but in Spain and Germany as well. And those planned in every country, in Western Europe, in Korea, Turkey and even in Russia, where they've just laid the first sleeper.

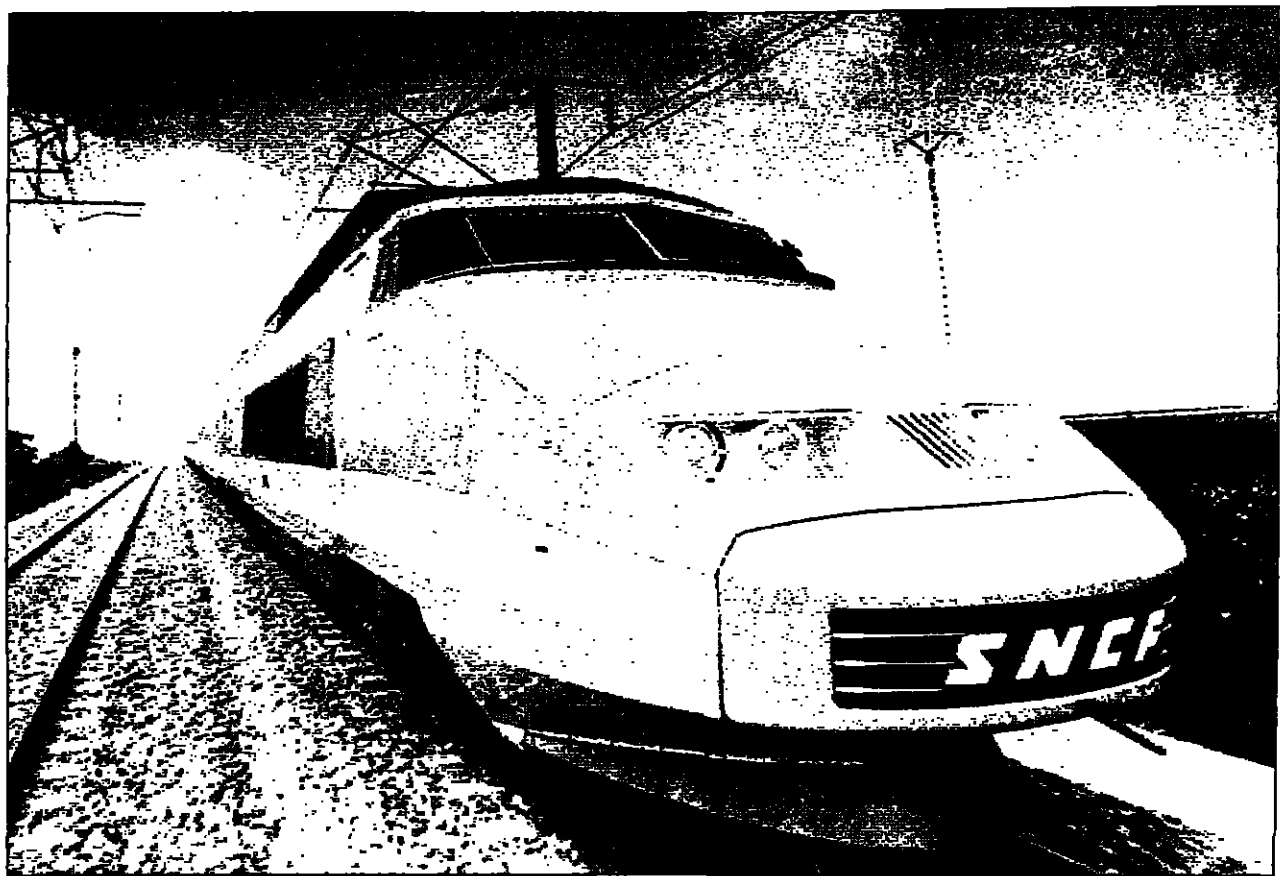
Alone in the world the Brits are stuck (as so often) in the past, dreaming of historic glories, preserving old vi-

ducts, lovingly restoring ancient steam engines, treating railways as toys for grown-ups, while around them their real railway system is crumbling for want of expenditure.

Indeed foreign railwaymen admire British Rail for the regularity of its services in the face of steadily decreasing public funding and a consequent, potentially disastrous, slump in investment. To the Brits of course, BR is fair game, treated like the spouse of a miserly husband berated for not producing caviar butties, on an inadequate house-keeping allowance.

If the notoriously anti-investment Treasury (which believed that a two-lane M25 would be sufficient) had its way, funding would be even further reduced, which is why it supports the government's plans to fragment the grossly underfunded railway system.

The plans are, as labelled, really "privatisation", since the tracks themselves and the vast majority of the services which run on them



The high-speed French TGV, an example of foreign innovation roaring forward into the next century

will remain in the public sector, and most of those which are franchised will require as much or more public funding as they do under BR's management. Even Bob Horton, the former chairman of British Petroleum, installed to run Rail Track, which will be responsible for the railways' infrastructure, is already saying that to maintain any sort of serious railway service will require far greater funding than is currently available.

The transport secretary and the prime minister have closed their eyes to the evidence, hoping that privatisation will prove a magic wand which will produce the enormous injection of private capital required to fund the franchises, as well as the infra-

structure. They also clearly have their own political and psychological reasons to show that they are more Thatcherite than their former mistress, who took the advice of that sturdy disciple, the late Nicholas Ridley, and left BR well alone.

Even so the government's fanatical determination to huff off the railways would not have mattered if it had taken the advice of everyone who knew anything about the subject and privatised BR in sensible chunks, either geographical (come back, the Great Western) or, as at present organised, in business sectors, instead of chopping it up into little lumps. And even if the

government were to allow BR to bid for franchises, the damage would be done, the system destroyed.

Other governments, notably the Swedes, have divided the tracks themselves from the operation of the trains running on them. But they allow for social and environmental factors, and compare proposals for capital spending with investment on roads on a global basis. Whereas even before fragmentation, BR's plans were judged separately and purely on commercial grounds, unlike road schemes where "social" factors are included.

Unfortunately the nostalgia built into British attitudes makes their railways easy prey for the ultra-Thatcherites,

who are seemingly blind to the long-term consequences of their policies. At the end of the television series, Lester Thurow of MIT provides a striking analogy: "Suppose I was a hard-nosed capitalist parent thinking about sending my children to 16 years' worth of education, that is a lousy investment that no capitalist would ever make."

"What 16 years with no returns? On the other hand, having an educated population does pay off for every society. The same thing is true for a good transportation system. It's the thing that holds us together."

● The six-part series *Locomotion* — the World's Railways Made starts on BBC2 on Sunday October 31 at 8.10pm.

From Cambridge mafia to cabinet minister

One generation at Cambridge has produced two chancellors and three home secretaries. Peter Riddell on the career men and close friends



The light blues. Kenneth Clarke (left), Norman Lamont, Michael Howard, Norman Fowler, John Gummer and Leon Brittan

One autumn evening in 1960, two eager young undergraduates went round to see one of their senior contemporaries shortly after a disastrous night for the Tories at the Cambridge Union. Sir Norman Fowler recalls in his memoirs a knock at the door of the rooms which he shared at Trinity Hall with another future Tory MP and minister, Peter Viggers. "Two younger undergraduates a year behind me entered. They were worried at the damage the union debate had done to the Conservative cause and they wanted urgent action to correct the position. The first was a law student from Caius called Kenneth Clarke and the second another law student from Peterhouse named Michael Howard. Twenty years later I recruited Ken Clarke as my parliamentary secretary at the department of transport. Thirty years later when I left the government, I handed over the department of employment to Michael Howard."

So was born what has become known as the Cambridge "mafia" — the group of nearly two dozen undergraduates in the late 1950s and early 1960s which went on to become Tory MPs. Half became ministers and eight have entered the cabinet: Fowler, Clarke, Howard, Leon Brittan, John Gummer, David

Howell, John Nott and Norman Lamont. A crop of two Chancellors and three home secretaries is not bad for one generation. Two also became European commissioners, Brittan and Christopher Tugendhat.

The connections have been maintained since then. Many remain close friends, talking frequently, attending each other's parties and going on holiday together. One said that if he wanted an enjoyable and relaxing evening he would always prefer the company of one of his Cambridge friends now in the cabinet.

This group has never, however, been a "mafia" in the sense that its members have

supported each other's careers. They have too often been rivals for that. They have competed since they stood against each other in Cambridge elections, then sought the same parliamentary seats and in recent years argued across the cabinet table. The closest alliances have probably been between Lamont and Howard and between Fowler and Clarke. But Lamont suspected that Fowler pressed for his replacement as Chancellor by Clarke last May and Fowler criticised Lamont's resignation statement. In that reshuffle the symmetry was completed when Howard took over from Clarke at the Home Office and was in turn suc-

ceeded at the department of the environment by Gummer. There was nothing remarkable about the group at the time, nor do they rival the abilities of the pre-war Oxford generation of Denis Healey, Edward Heath and Roy Jenkins. John Dunn, now a leading left-wing political theorist, was quoted in *The Guardian* five years ago as saying they were "all tremendously unformidable. Most seemed to be in a stage of prolonged adolescence. It was inconceivable that they would be running the country, even scary."

Many were beneficiaries of the opening up of social and educational opportunities in

the 1950s. They in turn benefited from an opening up of the Tory party during the 1960s and 1970s. They were lucky in their timing since many winnable seats became vacant after the Tories lost the 1964 and 1966 general elections. Other seats appeared following the boundary changes of the early 1970s. And they were at the right age to become ministers, their late thirties or early forties, just when the Tories started a long period in office. People with their talent for political infighting, adaptability and, above all, ambition, were likely to prosper in such circumstances. They are quintessentially men of office rather than principle.

Fowler was undergraduates "most belonged to the liberal wing of the Conservative party, but that does not accurately position Nick Budgen. Most were not devoutly religious, but that does not remotely include John Gummer."

The main consistent threads have been a belief in opening up opportunities and, for most, a commitment to an active British role in Europe, which became an issue when they were at Cambridge. That has always motivated Clarke and Gummer, though Howard and Lamont have been more on the Euro-sceptic side. The Cambridge group has been accused of "careerism" in the classic pejorative sense and it is sometimes difficult to establish their beliefs. They were initially supporters of the approach of R.A. Butler, then backers of the modernism of the Heath era, then converts to Thatcherism, and, most recently, followers of John Major. It is hard to identify any particularly distinctive contribution for which they may be remembered. They have been implementers of policy rather than initiators of change. As such they epitomise the era of the career politician.

● Peter Riddell's *Honest Opinion*: the rise of the career politician is published this Thursday by Hamish Hamilton, £16.99.

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The cloning of human embryos, carried out by an American scientist, would not be allowed in Britain, says Nigel Hawkes

Who wants their baby copied?

The biologist Dr George Wald, a Nobel prize-winner, had a nasty dream. He was standing in Grand Central Station in New York, and he saw eight identical Albert Einsteins buying eight identical copies of the *New York Times*.

It is a nightmare that seemed to have drawn a little closer with the disclosure over the weekend that an American scientist, Dr Jerry Hall of George Washington University in Washington DC, has cloned human embryos.

In Britain, however, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has already considered the question of human cloning, and ruled it out. Anybody attempting the same feat here would be breaking the law. Further, there is little evidence that even for the purpose Dr Hall had in mind — improving the chances of successful *in vitro* fertilisation — the technique would work very well.

Cloning is the process of producing genetically identical copies of a plant or animal. For plants it is a

long-established method of propagation — every gardener who takes a cutting is creating a clone. But in animals it is much newer, and relatively unproven. In humans it is beyond the pale.

Dr Hall has yet to publish a paper, but accounts so far suggest that he did his human cloning by the most conceptually simple of approaches. At the earliest stages of development of an embryo — after fertilisation but before implantation on the surface of the womb — all its cells are described as "totipotent", meaning that they all have the capacity to develop into fully-formed fetuses. If a developing embryo at the four-cell stage is divided into four, then all four parts could develop into viable embryos sharing the same genes and hence all are identical. In the case of cows, says Dr Alan

Handyside, senior lecturer at Hammersmith Hospital in London, the division can be done with a razor-blade. Human eggs are much smaller — only about a tenth of a millimetre across — making the task more difficult but no different in principle.

Dr Hall told a meeting of the American Fertility Society that he had successfully split human embryos into twins and quadruplets. The experiments were done on genetically abnormal embryos and no attempt was made to re-implant the clones, but Dr Robert Stillman, director of the *in vitro* fertilisation programme at George Washington, asserted that the technique had the potential for "reducing risks and costs as well as enhancing success rates for infertile couples who desire children".



Gregory Peck creating Hitler's in *The Boys from Brazil*

British experts were sceptical yesterday. Dr Handyside says that as you reduce the size of the embryo by division, the chances of persuading it to implant on to the surface of the womb diminish. To create two, four, or even eight

potential embryos from one is no advance if it proves impossible to get any of the clones to implant. "This is the problem that has delayed animal cloning," he says. "As a means of increasing IVF success rates, it's not a very practical approach. Ethically, it's quite unacceptable."

Using cloning, a single egg harvested from a woman could be fertilised and multiplied up by a factor of, perhaps, four. This would not necessarily increase the chances of a pregnancy by the same factor, and many methods already exist for stimulating "super-ovulation", the production of multiple eggs.

With cloned embryos, some presumably would be frozen for use later if the first attempts failed. But freezing tends to cut the success rate. All in all, it is hard

to see what would be gained.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, a statutory body established by Parliament, has already considered the ethics of human cloning. The law does not specifically ban the process, but all such experiments would require a licence from the authority, which has determined that it will not issue any. In effect, that means that human cloning cannot be carried out in Britain.

The HFEA gives several grounds for having reached this conclusion. First, there is simple revulsion at the idea, and the fear of diluting the sense of the uniqueness of each human being. The idea has overtones, it says, of human eugenics and of trying to create ideal people, like the Albert Einstein clones in George Wald's dream. In addition, there has been

little research to show that the technique would be effective as a means of improving success in IVF.

Finally, the authority cites the damaging "psychological effect" that would be created if embryos were multiplied, and used successively to fertilise a mother. The result would be identical twins of different ages, a novel but not very agreeable concept.

Few people would disagree with a word of this, which demonstrates the wisdom of applying social constraints to science. To do so is not impossible or even very difficult, but appears so far to have defeated America. There embryo research was virtually banned by Presidents Reagan and Bush, as part of their anti-abortion stance.

Recently President Clinton has lifted the ban, only to be rewarded by headlines about *The Boys from Brazil* — the 1970s film about a former Nazi's plan to breed a new race of Hitlers. Dr Hall's revelations could scarcely have been more badly timed.

Give gout the order of the boot

Our gouty ancestors suffered terribly from inflamed joints, especially in the big toe, but today modern drugs can cure the disease, says Dr Thomas Stuttford

Walter Pope, the poet who died in 1714, wrote that his recipe for contented old age was privacy, a fire in the grate, a young woman to rub his bald head and freedom from gout or kidney stones.

Two hundred years later, with Chancellor Kenneth Clarke threatening to put VAT on fuel in next month's Budget, and the present female sensibilities, it seems that only one of Pope's prayers are likely to be answered — for with correct treatment the elderly can be spared gout.

Gout can be and in most cases is prevented by regularly taking allopurinol Zyloric. If this fails, the agonising pain which has given the disease its reputation can be alleviated either by modern non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, or by colchicine, extract of the autumn crocus, which was first used at much the same time as William Pitt was nursing his inflamed toe joints in Downing Street.

Gout attacks one in 200, is four times more common in men than women and rarely

attacks a man before puberty or a woman before the menopause. It is more common in affluent than poor societies, and more often attacks the fat and over-fed rather than the thin and wasted.

It is not, however, contrary to popular belief, confined to the hard-drinking classes. Martin Luther and many others who have lived an equally blameless and austere life have also suffered from it.

The tendency to develop gout can be inherited and may be a symptom of a wide range of other diseases, often related to the kidney but also secondary to causes as diverse as Down's syndrome, leukaemia or severe psoriasis.

Gout is caused by the deposition of crystals of monosodium urate monohydrate in the joints, the tendon sheath or the tissues adjacent to them. These crystals are deposited when there are abnormally high levels of uric acid in the blood or other body fluids.

As the crystals are highly irritant they cause acute inflammation, tenderness and swelling of the joints. Very often the onset is so dramatic

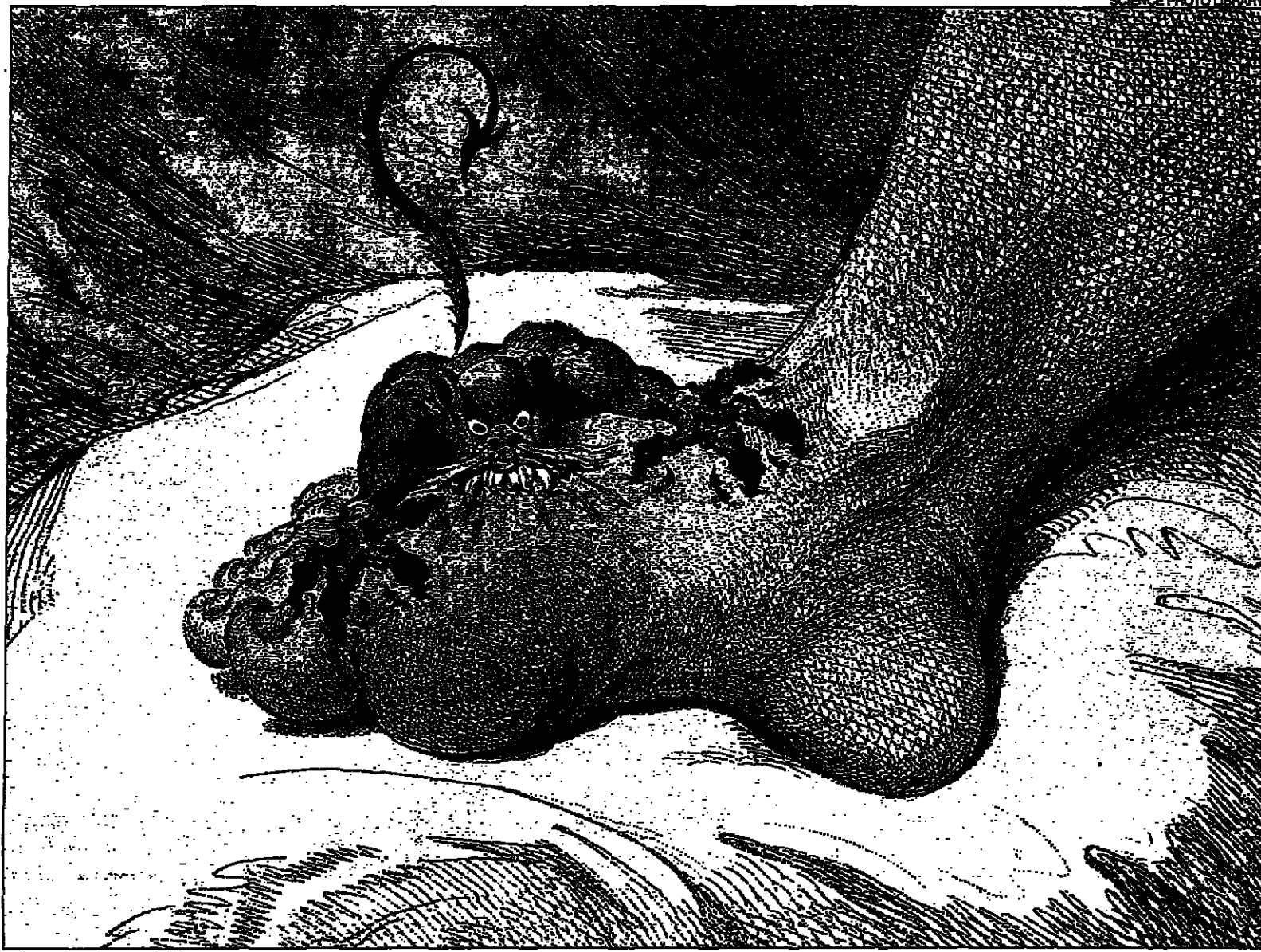
that the patient feels the joint must be infected.

Raised blood uric acid levels occur either because there is a hereditary failure to excrete uric acid efficiently or because excretion has been impaired by disease. Conversely, it can come about as the consequence of increased uric acid production, sometimes as the result of other diseases, but more often because of increased purine intake.

Purine-rich foods include such delicacies as lobster, caviar and other shellfish or fish roe, liver, kidneys or game. Alcohol, too, causes an increase in uric acid levels in susceptible people.

When Sir William Gilbert wrote of one of his heroes in *The Gondoliers* "a taste for drink combined with gout had doubled him up forever", he was right, for gout is caused by a combination of factors.

Alcohol is particularly likely to precipitate an attack if taken on an empty stomach and for those who are liable to gout, not having breakfast or lunch before going to an evening



Aftermath of a plate of game and a bottle of claret? A vivid Gilray cartoon (1799) illustrating the pain and inflammation caused by gout

party may trigger disaster.

Many patients with a raised blood uric acid level never experience an attack of gout. But in 70 per cent of cases of those who do, the first joint to be affected is in the big toe. But other joints, knees, ankles and wrists can also be involved or even more rarely the large joints, hips and shoulders.

Gout has a tendency to attack a joint already damaged in some other way.

Repeated attacks of gout can destroy the articular surfaces of the joint and result in chronic gouty arthritis.

Allopurinol, which keeps gout at bay, should not be started during an acute attack and when first given may

actually precipitate joint pains.

But even so the patient should persevere, for once a satisfactory level of blood uric acid has been achieved there is every likelihood that they would be gout-free. The dose of allopurinol that may be needed to achieve this will vary considerably and may be

as little as 100 milligrams. Any pain which is experienced during initial stages of therapy can be treated with anti-inflammatory agents.

If there are no contraindications to taking allopurinol, such as liver disease, and if it does not cause skin rashes or headache, the drug should be taken by all regular gout

sufferers to spare them the pain, or chronic joint disease, which so worried Walter Pope, or the kidney disease about which he was probably blissfully ignorant.

It will also allow sufferers today to enjoy, within reason, a dinner of game washed down with claret without suffering the following day.

Half a mind to the whole picture

Through studies of the intriguing condition 'unilateral neglect', brain damage is becoming less mysterious

THIS YEAR, approximately 100,000 people in Britain will suffer a stroke, and tens of thousands more will be hit on the head hard enough to destroy part of the brain permanently.

Many will go back to a normal life, but others will be incapacitated by long-lasting problems. The phrase "brain damage" strikes terror, yet modern neuropsychological research has shown how intelligence, skill and creativity can survive the destruction of parts of the brain. By studying how the mind continues to function — as well as malfunction — after stroke and head injury, neuropsychologists are beginning to uncover some of the mysteries of our consciousness.

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One disorder which is as intriguing and mysterious as any is known as "unilateral neglect". This most commonly happens after damage to the right side of the brain. Sufferers may, for instance, eat only half the food on their dinner plate — completely missing all the food on the left side. They can groom perfectly the hair on the right of their head, while leaving the left half of their hair uncombed.

Yet when they leave the left side of space and cross to the right, their minds can work apparently normally and in some cases show great skill and creativity. The illustration with this article is by an artist who suffered a stroke causing unilateral neglect, a patient of neuropsychologist Peter Halligan and John Marshall in Oxford. A beautifully drawn right side of the head shows how the damaged brain is capable of artistic skill and creativity: the erosion of the left side demonstrates how consciousness of the world breaks down.

This is not simply some



Artwork by a unilateral neglect sufferer

kind of "blindness" on the left side. The problem is one of basic awareness of the left side of space. Drs Halligan and Marshall have proved this with another patient. She was shown successive pairs of drawings of a house. Time after time, she said that they were the same. Yet some of the houses had flames erupting from a window on the left, but she did not notice this because of her neglect, and therefore

saw the houses as identical.

She was then given the same pairs of houses and was asked to say in which one she would like to live. She explained that they were all identical and she therefore had no preference. Forced to guess, however, she chose unfailingly the house without flames.

Italian colleagues repeated this study with one patient who showed the same phenomenon, except that he always selected the house with the flames, even though he had no conscious awareness of them. Asked to speculate why he chose a particular house on one occasion, the man shrugged, then said: "Maybe that house would be a little bit warmer."

For these people to be able consistently to pick one of the houses means that the information was available somewhere in the brain. Yet they could not make conscious that information from the left side of space.

So severe can the lack of awareness of the left side be that some patients who are completely paralysed on the left side of their bodies deny that they have any difficulties with that side of the body whatsoever. A wheelchair-bound person, totally paralysed on the left side, if asked whether she can walk, may reply that she could if she wanted, but finds it uncomfortable and prefers not to. People with unilateral neglect even dream on the right

side. Scientists in Rome looked at the direction of eye movements during rapid-eye-movement (REM) sleep. REM sleep is the stage of sleep when we dream, and the neuropsychologists found that almost all the eye-movements during dream sleep were to the right-hand side. The scientific implications of all this research for a basic understanding of how the human mind functions are considerable, but there are also important spin-offs for more effective rehabilitation of patients.

FOR instance, it is now clear that paralysis of one side of the body may in some cases be caused not simply by a malfunctioning of parts of the brain responsible for making movements. In some people, this paralysis is worsened by the fact that they are not aware of the left side of the body, and so do not move it.

By cajoling these people to make even tiny movements with their left hand, you can sometimes sufficiently improve the awareness that there is a left side of the body for the person then to generally become more aware that there is a left side of space generally.

The lesson from neuropsychological research is that our human individuality and abilities can survive brain damage and the resulting loss of fundamental abilities in speech, language, perception or memory. Furthermore, the more we understand about how they break down, the more readily we can learn to use the still-functioning parts of the brain to make up for these losses.

IAN ROBERTSON

●The author is a senior scientist at the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge.

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Lynne Truss



■ Proof, if proof were needed, that you can keep a good poet down

On Sunday morning, a 38-year-old unpublished poet named Clive was mournfully twiddling a pencil at his special poetry-composing desk, huddled in a greatcoat, when the telephone rang. He paused before answering it, feeling sorry for himself. "Nothing rhymes with telephone," he said, his face puckering uncontrollably. "In fact, why do I bother?" He picked up the receiver. "Hello!" he croaked.

It was his mother. She sounded agitated. Clive, alarmed, snapped his pencil in half, and then looked at it, aghast. "Clive, I'm worried," she said. "Have you read today's *Sunday Times*?"

"Of course not."

"Then you don't know! Oh, that I should have to break such news to my own son! Clive, it says here that a professor in America — is Kentucky still in America? I expect so — has established from studying 1,000 important 20th-century dead people that poets are by far the most at-risk group for depression, paranoia and suicide."

"Yes?" Clive shrugged. "So what?"

"So you never told me that! You said, 'Mum, I want to be a poet', and I let you! You were so sweet, with those big brown eyes. Clive, and you said, 'If I can't be a poet, Mum, I'll kill myself'. And now I discover you've chosen the very profession in which the risk is greatest! You tricked me, Clive!"

"You're hysterical."

"Who is this Sylvia Plath he mentions? Is she a friend of yours? What about W.H. Auden? Is he making you depressed, too? Give up this poetry madness, my son, before it is too late!"

Clive spent the rest of the day indoors. Like Jean Cocteau, he knew that poetry was indispensable, although indispensable to what exactly, he didn't feel qualified to say. He was deeply offended by the sweeping accusation of poet-paranoia, yet didn't dare go out to buy the newspaper, for fear he would find an immense placard outside the shop, screaming "Poets Are Lunatics! Official!" So instead he wearily copied out some of his old verses — in his best wiggly handwriting, on lined paper — and made packages to send to *Marxism Today* and *The Economist*, choosing "Lines on the Wedding of Prince Andrew to Lady Sarah Ferguson (revised)" and "Why Is This Black Dog Following Me Around? — An Allegory". He didn't know whether these magazines printed poetry, though he somehow felt sure they used to. Last week his submissions to *The Listener* and *Punch* had both been returned with just the bald, scribbled legend, "Not known at this address". Clive had taken these harsh rebuffs very much to heart.

Suddenly, at about six o'clock, the phone rang again. It was his mother. "Clive, I've been looking at this article, and you've got to me something. Were you gloomy by the time you were 13?"

"Gloomy?"

"Just answer the question."

"Well, yes, I suppose I've always been..."

"So it's not the job that makes you depressed? It's because you're sensitive, or high-minded or something, that you chose this particular job in the first place?"

"But poetry isn't a job. Mum, more a result of a struggle in the poet's mind between something he wants to express and the medium in which he intends to express it."

"There was a pause."

"Why do you always talk like that, Clive? Do you think Albert Einstein talked to his mother like that? No, he didn't. And why? Because he wasn't a wimp of a poet, depressed all the time!" She hung up.

Clive wondered whether it was worth phoning back, to make the point that the lives of poets and scientific pioneers were not strictly comparable. He might mention, too, that being an unpublished (and therefore failed) poet was about 20 times more life-endangering than being (say) W.H. Auden, who rarely contended with singing letters from *Peter Fish Monthly* ("I read your poems with interest, Mr. Auden, but I can't imagine why you sent them"). But he decided not to bother, and immediately cheered up. He would write an epic poem about rejection letters, simply for his own amusement. To say that writers are generally depressed, he reflected with satisfaction, is on a par with saying that Kentucky professors tell people precisely what they know already.



Michael Howard is applauded by Conservatives for proposing more severe penalties, but is Lord Woolf's preventive approach not a wiser counsel?

Call off the Woolf pack

A senior judge makes some eminently sensible suggestions about crime, and is howled down by the voice of ignorance

It is always jolly to find a judge on the wrong end of a coconut shy, and it is even better when the judge ducking a broken head is absolutely innocent of everything he is accused of.

When I can stop laughing, however, you will find me in a very remarkable situation. I am not only going to praise a judge of the High Court with three times three, but I am also going to defend him from his attackers. I shall be doing that because Lord Justice Woolf is right, and not only right but courageous, and not only right and courageous but sensible, and not only right, courageous and sensible but also wise.

I do realise that when his lordship reads these words he will be greatly tempted to make the sign against the evil eye and run for the hills, leaving no forwarding address. For the judges to be traduced by the frightful Levin is something their lordships must suffer, well, they survive. But for a High Court judge to be warmly commended by the villain himself, and in print, is a stain that may never come off. (Though I wish he had not written the letter that appeared in *The Times* last Saturday. It was, in the American vernacular, "copping a plea"; indeed, if it were possible for a judge of the High Court to whine, that was what he was doing, and as for his buttering up Michael Howard, of all people, my reaction was to go and have a bath, though I had just had one. Better, far, that he should have reacted with a dignified silence, and certainly over the one, fatal, slip he made — the suggestion that we should be fined for not keeping ourselves unbribeable, which he insists referred only to cars.)

But the really important part of this business has been forgotten in the noise and dust. Lord Woolf delivered his lecture to the New Assembly of Churches; the text was published in *The Times*, and I have read the whole of it, which cannot be said for most of his tormentors. Rarely, if ever, have I read in the dark forest of criminology anything so fresh and so useful; only the Howard League's best studies could match it. True, it might have moldered in an archive, to be dug out a few years later, but I think not, such useful knowledge and proposals would have been picked up elsewhere, and a really serious debate would have followed. As it is, it has been buried under the wholly misplaced scorn, and much worse than scorn, that he has had to suffer.

Perhaps it will be revived and widely

discussed, as it should be, when the heat is turned down. Even now, for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, it will be seen as a massive contribution to the whole debate over crime and criminals, prisons and prisoners, punishers and punishments. Just listen to a few lines of Lord Woolf's text — the kind of argument that should dominate any debate on this subject:

"It now costs on average £430 a week to keep someone in prison. Just pause for a moment and speculate what some victims of crime could do with £22,000 a year or thereabouts, which is the cost of keeping his or her assailant locked up in prison. Remember that eventually that prisoner is going to come out of prison and the question then will be: is he more or less likely to commit a further crime? Bear in mind that the prisoner hopefully has family ties and that those ties are inevitably going to be damaged by the fact of imprisonment. A broken family may result, with the consequent dangers to the children of that family: that prison may be creating the situation in which the children will grow up to commit the sins of their parents. If the prisoner was finding it difficult to stay in employment before he went to prison he is going to find it even more difficult when he comes out."

Simple, obvious, above all, practical. Even more practical, because it has been demonstrated, was the remarkable sentencing policy that Lord Woolf also touched upon: it was practised in Germany, and...

...the judiciary took the lead in reducing sentences substantially without any apparent effect on law and order but with the consequence that instead of planning to build more prisons, they have closed prisons."

There was much more good sense in Lord Woolf's address, as there was, not long ago, when Lord Goodman pointed out that something like half the prison-

ers in our jails have long-standing problems with drink or drugs or both. But neither Lord Woolf nor Lord Goodman, need, indeed anyone with sharp eyes, needs to be told that I am not really discussing penal problems in all this; I am only laying the table for a banquet of swine.

The abuse that fell upon Lord Woolf's wig was something so horrible, so savage, so ignorant, grimy, empty, stale, useless, cheap and nasty, that it seemed that a dam had broken, and a stinking flood was pouring out. The nadir in words was reached by Simon Heffer (deputy editor of *The Spectator* and commentator in the *London Evening Standard*): his comments were hardly distinguishable from those whose debating chamber is the four-ale bar and whose wisdom goes no further than vigorously demanding that sex offenders should have their whistles cut off.

(There was no evidence that he had read Lord Woolf's lecture closely, and his behaviour would have been even worse if he had.)

The pictorial nadir was to be found in the *Daily Mail*: the murder of the policeman was used in the paper's cartoon to suggest — or rather state quite plainly — that it was Lord Woolf's fault. You can guess what then happened, or if you can't you must be a very Houyhnhnm in your innocence and sweet nature. The politicians moved in.

Over the years, I have followed that unique and dreadful ritual, the crime and punishment debate at the Conservative party conference. As far back as I can remember, the "hangers and floggers" as they were (and still are) nicknamed, poured into the hall, licking their lips, to scowled for neck-stretching and flaying: the women delegates in that debate always outnumbered the men. Year after year, they bayed for blood and strangulation, and year after year their deepest desire was frustrated. The poor

devil of a minister, who had to make the speech to the harridans, came off the platform reeling for a triple brandy; and so ultimately vote-losing, that in recent years the debate has been pushed into a time-slot that would ensure thin audiences for the televising of the event.

But this year, there were no such hidings and bushels. For we have a home secretary called Michael Howard, and I wouldn't be surprised if he had ambitions.

Well, if he has, these do not run in the form of calming down the harridans at the conference; on the contrary, he made a speech of such stupendous fawning and crawling — fawning and crawling to the worst impulses in the worst people, and doing it with such oily ingratitude that he would be wise next time to hang a card round his neck reading "Do not strike matches here".

That, however, is not my accusation: if I got angry at the sight of a real political creep, I would long ago have burst. (Well, what about the attorney-general, smarming in to say that Lord Woolf and Mr Howard are really as one? No, it is Mr Howard's rejection of all the patient work over the years to find and cure the criminal propensity — just what Lord Justice Woolf was talking about. Mr Howard's "27 things to do about crime" that he has been vigorously routing will do nothing about the crime rate, which will go on rising. Mr Howard or no Mr Howard. (As you may have noticed, he managed to rope in the prime minister, who uttered, Dalek-like, a few mechanical phrases about crime and punishment which strongly suggested that he had never read a book on the subject.) As for myself, I never thought I would live to see the day that I cheered Lord Ackner, when he said plainly and correctly that Mr Howard's plans "seem largely an irrelevance".

What things the Tories trot out these days! "Call back yesterday; bid time return"; but even Shakespeare could not do that. There is no hope that the Tories will come to their senses; there is no hope that the Matrix Churchill scandal will result in some of them going to prison. We can only hope for some *deus ex machina* to force a general election. A Labour government? A fearful thought; but if it were the only way to get rid of this putrid gang, I would have to hold my nose and vote Labour.

Bernard Levin

Waugh's inferno

AUBERON WAUGH's savage television attack on the Booker prize — that it is a politically correct award for foreign writers whom nobody reads — has prompted some to enquire what lies behind his venom. Could it, for instance, be linked to his chequered friendship with Lord Gower, chairman of the judges for this year's prize?

In his splendid autobiography, *Will This Do?*, published two years ago, Waugh shed limited light on the subject. He confesses to falling in love, in a "hopeless, moon-calf sort of way", with a woman at Oxford some 30 years ago.

"My trouble was the ghastly old Dante-Beatrice syndrome, a product of Catholic guilt and inexperience. And then the subtle Lord Gower started stealing her from under my nose," Waugh laments. "Black [sic], an earl and said to be a poet; the combination was clearly irresistible."

Waugh remains friends with his Beatrice. "Obviously I am not going to reveal her identity. There have been

some vulgar guesses but there is a curse on anyone who reveals it. It will cost you a lot in witch-doctors," he says.

Gower, too, takes the part of gallant. "You will have to read Auberon's memoirs, I am not about to write mine. Auberon is a tease but he is one of my oldest friends." As for Waugh's attack on the Booker prize, Gower says: "I enjoyed it. A bit of controversy always fuels interest."

● Whether Olivier Todd, the French Booker judge, actually makes it to this evening's ceremony remains to be seen. Todd has already returned a *British Airways* ticket out of solidarity with Salman Rushdie, the recent recipient of the Booker of Bookers prize but still passenger non grata as far as BA is concerned. A replacement ticket with Air France has now been rendered useless by the planned strike. In desperation, Todd has booked a seat with British Midland. What he doesn't know is that BM, too, is a Rushdie-free zone.

Family at war

AS THE dispute over women priests heats up, a father and daughter team has joined forces in Parliament to thwart the reformers. The Earl of Lauderdale and Lady Olga Maitland, Tory MP for Sutton and Cheam, are vehemently opposing the measure to pave the way for the first batch of ordinations next spring. Maitland wants to speak in Friday's Commons debate but fears she will be blocked because her views are well-known.

"A Christian issue is going to be decided upon by people who are not practising Christians. The more I think about it, the more I realise that the schism in the church over this is going to be very, very deep," she complains.

Her equally traditionalist father is clearly delighted that they are at one. Lauderdale, who is more hopeful of speaking in next week's debate in the Lords, says: "I regard this measure as grossly unfair and outrageously regressive." He backs an amendment put down by Lord Holderness which would seriously delay the proposal. Holderness's

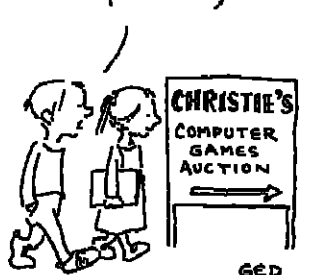


DIARY

grandfather, points out Lauderdale, initiated the first links between Anglicans and Roman Catholics back in the 1890s. Seems to run in families.

● History seems to be coming around very quickly these days. Christie's is holding its

I find your morbid nostalgia quite depressing



first auction of computer games — boasting such mould-breakers as Zork I, *Infidel* and *Dragons and Dungeons* among a collection of 1,000 games dating from 1982.

Funereal

FUND-RAISING events are rarely sombre occasions but a concert next month at the Albert Hall may prove the exception. A performance of Mozart's Requiem is being organised by the Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors on behalf of the National Association of Bereavement Services.

"Yes, the funeral directors are helping us and why not," says Claire Rayner, president of the bereavement association. "There's no point in being mere-mouthed. Death is part of life after all."

● A nasty shock in store for the Bishop of Bath and Wells should he dip into the Best of Britain section of *New Yorker* magazine, the many factual deficiencies of which the *Diary* highlighted yesterday. For we overlooked one gem, says a keen-eyed reader — namely that, between such West Country "musts" as Glastonbury and Exeter, is Wales Cathedral. One of the finest in Britain apparently.

Hot seats

STRENUOUS efforts by John Smith's women to maintain a sisterly front against the party's male chauvinists are to be tested in a battle for parliamentary seats. At the centre of the dispute are two of Labour's brightest women, Harriet Harman, MP for Peckham, and Tessa Jowell, who was elected for Dulwich last year.

Under the changes proposed by the Boundary Commission, however, only one is likely to survive the next general election.

Harman, who kept her job as Treasury spokeswoman despite a poor showing in the shadow cabinet elections, originally looked most at risk from



Harman, left, and Jowell: can they both survive?



the planned changes to the parliamentary map in south London. But she has fought a clever behind-the-scenes exercise to rescue her seat from the shake-up.

Poor Jowell, on the other hand, looks doomed. The commission wants to switch some of her Labour wards to Vaughan, she says she is prepared to offer up one of her safe Labour wards if Harman does the same to save Jowell. "There are ways of making this a better seat for Tessa. I would be very sorry to see Dulwich lost."

Well, not quite. Another of Labour's up and coming women, Kate Hoey, is proposing a sisterly compromise. As MP for the neighbouring Vaughan, she says she is prepared to offer up one of her safe Labour wards if Harman does the same to save Jowell. "There are ways of making this a better seat for Tessa. I would be very sorry to see Dulwich lost."

Plumbing for the under-8s

Sex education can go too far, says

Libby Purves

Exercise for 4-7 years. Materials: large pieces of paper, felt tips, Sellotape, labels with names of body parts including sexual and reproductive organs (eg nipples, penis, vagina, testicles, public hair). Divide the children into groups of 4-6... Ask them to find one member of each group to lie down, and ask the others in the group to draw round them (with their clothes on). Next, discuss the differences between boys and girls; label the arms, legs and other uncontentious areas, and end up — having duly "acknowledged feelings of embarrassment" — with the difficult bits.

There is little indication, in the Family Planning Association's new "workbook" on primary-school sex education, as to how you then deal with outraged parents who have been proudly shown explicit diagrams labelled DADYS TESTICLES in shaky crayon. And outrage there will be at some aspects of the guide for teachers. How, for example, can any sensitive organisation be so asinine as to use the expression "skills development for younger children" in this context? Of course, they only mean "interpersonal skills", nothing shockingly technical, but tactlessness of this kind does not reassure parents barely over the shock of seeing their children in school uniform. Nor does the FPA's insistence that under-11s need telling about heterosexual Aids, lesbianism, the sensitivity of the clitoris, and where their sister's labia might be.

However, they are only trying to help. Children as young as four are now exposed by our careless society to television programmes and news items about most forms of sexual behaviour, often violent. True, sons and daughters of sensible households have a remarkable system for filtering this out ("Ugh! Snogging") and getting on to something more immediately relevant to their lives, such as space travel. Those with good parents or teachers get intelligent answers when they vaguely ask "What's a condom?" Those with younger siblings rapidly develop an awesomely complex vocabulary concerning childbirth, which fits seamlessly into the equally awesome grip of DNA engineering fostered by Steven Spielberg.

But beyond that, anything goes. A survey of primary schools found that 54 per cent had a policy of sex education, and 12 per cent a policy of none. The other 33 per cent, presumably, don't know. Research suggests that a lot of children get no information from parents, nor from school until they are 14. This is too late. You could be a parent by then, or very muddled. On the other hand, there is a lot to be said for the old grammar-school policy of leaving explicit "plumbing" until 11, if only because younger children are so bored by it. Provided that, as a safeguard against abuse, even the youngest are clearly told that private parts are private.

Where the FPA is right is in getting the subject aired. Many of its "sexuality information games" will probably go straight in the staffroom bin as too laughably explicit. But I looked through them yesterday with a primary headmaster, and he found that even the unusable bits helped him focus on a few home truths.

The point that emerged was that young children, unclouded by sexual feelings, often see more clearly into relationships than adults or teenagers. They know about love and bugs; they know about respect and disrespect, and how it feels to be on the receiving end. Sexual abuse is easily understood as cruelty or bullying; the concept of physical selfishness and using other people in a way they dislike is clear to young children, who lead a vigorously physical playground life. Certainly, from recent cases, that form of selfishness could be made clearer to some of their elders at universities. If the FPA had laid more stress on teaching respect and sensitivity towards other human beings, and less on the plumbing, not a sane voice would have dissented. As it is, the felt pens of censorship will be out.



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AGALLIC

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SCHOOL OF STATECRAFT

Britain leads the world in governmental reform

Douglas Jay's notorious dictum that "the gentleman in Whitehall knows best" has long been scorned as the epitome of the corporatist, patrician style of government which Britain has struggled to shed in the last decade. Yet it now seems that Lord Jay's remark was prophetic in a way he could never have suspected. It is to the reformed Whitehall of the 1990s that foreign governments are looking for inspiration and expertise. In the eyes of other nations, the energetic men and women of the British civil service know best after all.

As *The Times* reports today, the civil service college in Sunningdale is running courses for visitors from South Africa to assist them with the administrative reforms that must accompany the transition to majority rule. Last week, William Waldegrave, the public service minister, met Vice-president Al Gore for talks on the American national performance review. Later this year dozens of countries are expected to attend a conference on the citizen's charter — a package of reforms that has excited foreign observers more than the British public. Officials and politicians from countries as different as Poland and Argentina are making this policy pilgrimage. Statecraft is becoming a major British export, just as privatisation was in the 1980s.

Like New Zealand, Britain is now a global leader in government reform. The citizen's charter, though still in its infancy, has established the principle that public services should be as responsive and accountable to their consumers as a business, and should meet clear performance targets. Market testing has enabled the private sector to provide public services when it is best qualified to do so and, supplementing the work of the Audit Commission, has helped to reduce the cost of local government by more than 6 per cent. Under the "Next Steps" programme, more than a hundred

government agencies ranging from the royal parks to the paymaster general's office will soon be semi-independent executive bodies with their own performance goals and mission statements. Considered together, these reforms are the most comprehensive overhaul of British administration since the Northcote-Trevelyan reforms of the 1850s.

Expertise of this kind is least appreciated close at hand. Change may be sweeping Whitehall, but the impression of a mandarin indifference to the public it serves has been reinforced by the political theatre of the Scott enquiry. There are also many unanswered questions about the current reforms. It is unclear how contracting out will affect the constitutional relationship between ministers, officials and the public and how the traditional civil service ideals of integrity and impartiality will be affected as government becomes more pluralist, decentralised and entrepreneurial. These are matters that the Commons select committee's enquiry into the civil service must examine carefully.

Yet the complexity of change should not diminish pride in Britain's pioneering role. In the broadest sense, these reforms are addressing concerns common to developed nations of all political hues: citizens are no longer prepared to pay high taxes but are less prepared than ever to tolerate poor public services. They expect the state to perform a limited number of functions to the highest standards and with the smallest possible public subsidy. Governments are responding to this daunting groundswell with varying success: France has the "projet de service", Canada the "Public Service 2000" initiative, and America the new administrative creed set out in the book *Reinventing Government*. From these reforms is slowly emerging a new philosophy of the state for the next century. At a time of general malaise, it is important that Britain's pre-eminence in this debate be celebrated.

A GALLIC AEROFLOT

M. Balladur needs to stick to his guns

There is something very 1970s about the strike at Air France. The airline's president, Bernard Attali, has had to resign following the humiliating backdown of Edouard Balladur's government in the face of the strikers, who forced the abandonment of a restructuring plan to modernise the airline.

The government calculated that it was better to surrender to the workers than to encourage further copycat disruption in an already volatile public sector. This could prove to be a major defeat for the centre-right government which has hitherto earned plaudits for its privatising zeal. M. Balladur is likely to pour billions more francs into the French state's loss-making flag carrier.

M. Attali, twin brother of Jacques, former head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, had the unenviable task of making Air France profitable without provoking industrial action or embarrassing the government. British Airways, in similar circumstances at a time of rising unemployment, was able to cut its workforce and rationalise its operations and, above all, give management the right to manage. The French government, although nominally committed to freer enterprise, decided on Sunday to intervene for domestic political considerations. The consequence will be that Air France retains its reputation as the Gallic version of Aeroflot.

At stake are broader issues about the direction of France's government and state-protected economy. Under President Mitterrand's first red-blooded left-wing government socialist experiments were tried and they failed. The Socialists then embarked

upon a programme of interventionism to direct investment and promote industrial mergers. This new version of Colbertism, dressed up as state-directed technological innovation and reform, also ran its course without much visible success. Its downside was mass unemployment, caused by inflexible minimum wage policies which priced low paid Frenchmen out of jobs.

It was not accidental, as Marxists used to say, that these have been the same blinkered policies favoured by the European Commission under its French socialist president, Jacques Delors. Replicated on a continental scale they are a recipe for long-term European economic disaster. In order to meet the challenge of high-growth Asian economies, labour market flexibility is essential. Europe's leaders follow the French model and ignore these facts at their voters' peril.

M. Balladur's reforming, market orientated government started with great promise. Now it faces a political crossroads. His government should allow management to manage. That was the lesson of letting British Airways fly free of the state nest. At the international level M. Balladur should think again about his country's vital interests. No one doubts that the French love of their countryside and their peasant tradition is a powerful force behind their opposition to the Blair House accords and the GATT. But a man of M. Balladur's sophistication also knows that France must adapt itself to the international economy or become a declining backwater with a Third World airline to boot. *Courage, mon ami!*

A QUESTION OF IDENTITY

ID cards are acceptable for benefit claimants, not for everybody

On a wall in the National Liberal Club hangs a plaque to an unlikely hero. Harry Willcock, an ordinary citizen from Leeds, was charged with the offence of not carrying his wartime identity card in peacetime. He appealed all the way up the judicial system. The result, in 1950, was that the government abolished the requirement for all citizens to carry a national ID card. James Chuter-Ede, the home secretary, dramatically tore his up on the floor of the House of Commons to cheers from backbench MPs.

For decades after that, the British recoiled from national ID cards: a reaction against the twin nightmares of Big Brother communism and Nazi fascism. One of the liberties of the citizen, they felt, should be the right to remain anonymous. ID cards were a first step along the road to authoritarianism.

As memories of the Cold War and the second world war faded in the national memory, opposition to ID cards has softened. Ministers apparently have no principled objection to introducing them, but have not yet been persuaded of their efficacy. Now Peter Lilley, social security secretary, is thinking of bringing in an ID card for all claimants. Civil libertarians need have no objections to that. People already have to prove their identity in order to withdraw money from a bank; why not at a benefit office too? But the notion, which many Tory activists now support, that a national ID card be introduced for everyone, should be vigorously opposed.

Almost everybody carries proof of identity for much of the time: cheque and credit cards, driving licence, library or club

membership cards, often a card simply to admit them to their place of work. The difference is that they choose to do so for their own convenience. If they go for a walk, they may also choose to do so unencumbered by pieces of plastic.

Most bureaucrats would love to have the whole country filed, cross-referenced and monitored. It makes for efficiency and control. Most citizens, however, feel uncomfortable at the thought. They are quite capable of determining what state agencies need to know about them and of producing the appropriate information or documents when required. Otherwise, they prefer their lives to be free from intrusion, and the state to be free from the temptation to abuse the skein of information about a citizen that a national network could weave.

ID cards could never be voluntary. Those who chose not to carry one would immediately raise suspicions if stopped by the police. The authorities could easily make non-possession so inconvenient that the system became compulsory in all but name.

Nobody has yet convincingly demonstrated how national ID cards could help the fight against major crime and terrorism. Credit card fraud could be reduced by the use of photographs on credit cards: an ID card is not necessary. Terrorism, meanwhile, would be blissfully unaffected. Big-time criminals and terrorists would be the first to commission convincing forgeries. It would be perfectly acceptable for the government to introduce ID cards for benefit claimants. But a national scheme is not just undesirable — it is also quite unnecessary.

Conservatives and Euro-federalists

From Mr William Cash, MP for Stafford (Conservative)

Sir, Sir Christopher Prout (letter, October 22), far from disavowing the basic programme of the European People's party, actually seeks to justify the platform shared between the Conservative MEPs and the EPP.

He himself omits to point out that the programme demands an extension of majority voting for foreign policy (para 217.3), that the EPP "will ensure that the intergovernmental action does not eventually take over from Community action" and "that the review of the Maastricht Treaty... will... restore the unitary nature of the draft treaty adopted by the European Parliament" (218).

The programme calls for majority voting for taxation and for the new objectives of the Maastricht treaty (224) and demands that the European Parliament "must have the final say on constitutional and legislative matters".

Sir Christopher says that Conservative MEPs are not members of the EPP and that they are merely "allied". Yet the European Democratic Group — Danish and British Conservatives — issued their press release, "May wedding for European Conservatives", on May 6, 1992, stating that "the 32 British Conservatives and their two Danish allies are now fully integrated with the EPP" and that "the long-awaited fusion with the EPP is like a breath of fresh air after a long isolation". The language is quite clear.

This represents a real political problem which cannot be swept under the carpet or reduced to semantics. It must be clearly resolved in the Conservative manifesto for the European elections, with a decisive stand against the federal objectives and specific policies of the EPP's basic programme. Otherwise Conservative voters will be deceived and our party's integrity irreparably undermined.

Yours faithfully,

BILL CASH (Chairman), The European Foundation, 61 Pall Mall, SW1, October 22.

From Mr Anthony Kinch

Sir, The constitution of the European People's party provides that "the Christian Democratic parties of the member countries of the European Community and their Group in the European Parliament make up the 'European People's Party' — Christian Democrats (EPP)". It is difficult to accept that there is any distinction, as Sir Christopher Prout suggests, between being a member of the parliamentary group and being a member of the EPP.

There was no need for Conservative MEPs to attach themselves to the EPP to ensure the anti-socialist vote. They could simply have continued to vote that way.

It would have been possible for the Conservative party to "associate" itself with the EPP. The constitution provides for that. It also provides for individual members, but I can find no mention of an "attached" individual membership.

Lord Tebbit (letter, October 19) would have done better to quote the constitution of the EPP which provides that the party "shall pursue the process of federal unification and integration in Europe and compete for the realization of a United States of Europe".

I wish all Conservative candidates in June 1994 every success in convincing the electorate that they are attached to the EPP but not in favour of a United States of Europe.

Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY KINCH, 36 Greenways, Beckenham, Kent.

From Mrs J. Hewison

Sir, Your report (October 13) that the German constitutional court has ruled that Germany has the right to review its commitment to the Maastricht treaty to ensure that "European integration continues to respect German constitutional principles". Is there no way Britain could claim a similar right?

Yours faithfully,

JOANNA HEWISON, 66 Deneside Court, Seabourne Gardens, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, October 18.

How to fight racism

From Mr N. J. F. Lynch

Sir, As a white Anglo-Irishman of no particular political persuasion but opposed to racism in all its forms, I am deeply moved by the assertion of Ms Diane Abbott and others (letter, October 20) that this evil "can most effectively be challenged by an alliance of black and white people".

It would be difficult for any reasonable person to oppose these sentiments but I am not sure how I can join.

Should I set up a "National White Caucus" or ask my local Labour party to form a "white section" so that I may qualify? Perhaps the existing rules would allow me to apply for membership of the National Black Caucus mentioned in the letter, but somehow I doubt it.

Yours faithfully,

NIGEL LYNCH, The Whins, 68 West Common Road, Hayes, Kent, October 20.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Cloudy debate on freedom to smoke

From Baroness Jeger

Sir, The EC health ministers are expected to vote on November 4 on the question of tobacco advertising. Meanwhile the EC continues to subsidise the growing of tobacco in its member states. The 1993 forecast of subsidy to Community tobacco growers is £1.113 million. (Lords Hansard, June 10, col 1037). Of course the British taxpayer is contributing.

Tobacco grown in southeast Europe is of high tar content and not widely acceptable in Europe. Much of it is therefore being exported to the poorer countries of the world, where advertising plays little part in the market.

We are trying to persuade opium growers in southeast Asia to desist from their dangerous harvests and at the same time using our money to maintain tobacco crops within the EC family, spreading disease far and wide.

Yours sincerely,

LENA M. JEGGER, House of Lords, October 22.

From the Secretary of the British Medical Association

Sir, I am surprised that Bernard Levin ("Bang goes that freedom", October 19) has chosen to take a stand on smoking after apparently accepting only one version of events.

There is a distinct difference between doctors refusing to treat smokers as a group because they disagree with their lifestyle and a doctor refusing to give a particular patient a specific treatment when there is scientific evidence to show that persistent smoking impairs the efficacy of the treatment or negates it.

Of the six cases to which Forest, freedom to enjoy tobacco group, refers, and which Bernard Levin

quotes, five fall into the second category (i.e. where the particular treatment would have been impaired by persistent smoking). Frankly, the sixth case he cites seems to me incredible.

Yours faithfully,

IAN T. FIELD, Secretary, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, WCI, October 21.

From Mrs Sylvia Disley

Sir, Patients who have hip and knee replacement operations are asked, when necessary, by their surgeons to lose weight before they have surgery, otherwise the operation will not be a success. One never hears of these patients objecting to this request.

It is obvious that the surgeons who ask patients to stop smoking before they can successfully operate on them for diseases caused by smoking are doing so for the same reason.

Yours faithfully,

SYLVIA DISLEY, Hampton House, Upper Sunbury Road, Hampton, Middlesex, October 21.

From Mr Mark Saleby

Sir, Unfortunately for Bernard Levin's position, not to mention the unfortunate victims, the reported facts in the Los Angeles murder to which he alludes are not, I believe, in his favour.

It was the smoker who went home for her gun and shot the smoker who had asked her to smother with the law by extinguishing her cigarette.

Yours faithfully,

MARK SALEBY, As from: 1138A Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California, October 19.

From the Archdeacon of London

Sir, Life in the aftermath of the IRA outrage on the City of London is unfortunately not as simple as Viscount Massereene and Ferrard would like it to be.

The Diocese of London has, through its own officers and professional advisers, been extremely active in seeking the right way forward. We are particularly grateful to the Corporation of London for its help and generosity in protecting the remains of St Ethelburga's, and for the ongoing support being given through the City Surveyor.

Consultations are continuing with the Museum of London department of urban archaeology and with English Heritage, to whom we are also grateful for financial assistance with rescue archaeology.

Dangerous-structure notices were served not only on the Church authorities but also on our neighbours in Bishopsgate and we are currently co-operating with those on both sides of the damaged church to facilitate demolition of their properties. Once this is done the St Ethelburga site will be safe for archaeological work to begin.

The future of the remains and site of St Ethelburga's continues to be discussed and debated. However, we are still some way from making a decision.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE CASSIDY, Archdeacon of London, 2 Amen Court, EC4, October 20.

work. Prevention has to start earlier.

The Home Office has invested in four high-quality, active-learning, pre-school pilot programmes of the kind developed in Michigan in the United States. In a 30-year study, the programme's participants from deprived backgrounds have shown better attainment at school, greater earning power, less recourse to social services and significantly fewer arrests.

Over their lifetimes, the programme claims to have returned to the public purse \$7.16 for every dollar invested. This seems a sensible way to start on the crime problems of 2005 and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL WARD (Assistant General Secretary), Association of Chief Officers of Probation, 212 Whitechapel Road, E1, October 22.

redeveloped site will be 7.1 per cent (and rising).

Magdalene's financial position is not significantly different from that of several other Oxford or Cambridge colleges. The college is, however, under-endowed, and it is about to launch a campaign to increase its endowment very significantly.

As you rightly reported on October 20 (later editions), eight years is quite a long period these days for a master. A principal reason for deferring my resignation until now was to oversee the launch of the college's campaign. This should be well under way by September 1994, when the resignation takes effect.

Magdalene has achieved much in the last eight years. My wife and I have both very much enjoyed our time here, and when the time comes we shall be sad to leave.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID CALCUTT, Magdalene College, Cambridge, October 22.

Writers call for VAT-free books

From Sir Victor Pritchett, CH, and others

Sir, The prime minister has called for a return to "common-sense British values" and emphasised the importance of reading and writing (report, October 9).

He clearly recognises that the country's prosperity, particularly the ability of the poorest sections of society to take advantage of the economic recovery, depends greatly on improving literacy, communication skills and educational standards, all of which rely on the encouragement of reading. We need to stimulate the idea that reading is pleasurable, popular and productive, rather than a minority interest.

A tax on books would be a deterrent to reading: not, perhaps, to the few who can afford to buy books regularly, but to the many who read little enough as it is. An independent report published last month by Ernst & Young ("Literacy, education and training: their impact on the UK economy") estimates that poor skills in reading, writing, numeracy and oral communication are costing industry £8.5 billion a year — far in excess of the £270 million that might be raised from putting VAT on books.

Given the government's concern about education and training, we find it hard to believe that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would extend VAT to books. We urge him to resist any temptation to do so with his customary firmness.

Yours faithfully,

V. S. PRITCHETT (President, the Society of Authors), ANTHONY SAMPSON (Chairman), DOUGLAS ADAMS, TED ALLEBURY, ANITA BROOKNER, CLARE FRANCIS, JACK HIGGINS, SUSAN HOWATCH, SHIRLEY HUGHES, TED HUGHES, HAMMOND INNES, JOHN K. CARRE, DAVID LODGE, IRIS MURDOCH, ELIAS PETERS, TERRY PRATCHETT, JOANNA TROLOPE, FAY WELDON, PHILIP ZIEGLER, The Society of Authors, 84 Drayton Gardens, SW10.

Political memoirs

From Sir David Lane

Sir, The sadly mean-spirited extracts from Lady Thatcher's book which I have read leave me with two hopes.

First, that there will be no more of this kind of instant, no-holds-barred memoirs. Otherwise mutual frankness and trust among ministers will become impossible, and the already low public standing of politicians will diminish further.

Second, that the prime minister and his government will now make a cleaner break from the Thatcher years, in both substance and style, than has so far been apparent. Her brand of Conservatism will not win back electoral support.

Yours truly,

DAVID LANE, 5 Spinney Drive, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire, October 20.

Police discipline

From Mr Hugh Davies

Sir, Austin Donnellan, accused of rape, rightly rejected the backroom committee offered to him by King's College (report, October 20). He would be equally well advised to avoid a career in the Metropolitan Police.

Disciplinary complaints are heard by an internal tribunal of three senior officers. The tribunal is widely felt to lack an approach independent of either policy or gossip. The accused officer has no right to elect formal prosecution in the courts.

Lawyers are permitted for more serious cases, but this right will be lost under proposals advanced by Michael Howard, the home secretary, at the conference of the police superintendents' association (report, September 23).

An officer acquitted in court can face internal proceedings afterwards. The tribunal sits without a formal legal adviser.

Mr Donnellan will no doubt find useful employment. There is limited demand for sacked police officers. Accused officers presently confront what amounts to a kangaroo court. They deserve better.

Yours faithfully,

HUGH DAVIES, 3 Raymond Buildings, Grays Inn, WCI.

The body in question

From Mr Stephen Goldby

Sir, It was not Earl Russell's father who said he should endeavour to interpose his body between that of his sister and a German soldier attempting rape (Valerie Grove interview, October 22). It was Lytton Strachey, challenged during a hearing on his conscientious objection to serving in the 1914-18 war.

Strachey might have enjoyed the experience. Bertrand Russell's tastes lay in other directions.

Yours faithfully,

STEPHEN GOLDBY, Mill Cottage, Golden Lane, Lushall, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, October 22.

MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS

Peter Purton reports on the price war which has followed a boom in mobile communications

Despite the scepticism which greeted its announcement, the age of competition in mobile communications proposed by the government towards the end of the 1980s, is coming fast.

Britain could be about to enjoy one of the greatest levels of choice of mobile telephone services and equipment and some of the cheapest handset prices and tariffs on offer anywhere.

This new era of choice has come quite suddenly. Just 18 months ago, British users could choose from only two mobile telephone networks, Cellnet and Vodafone. Both offered more or less the same service with virtually identical prices. Today, there are four networks from three operators and ten different sets of tariffs — and before long there will be six networks.

While choice is finally lowering prices, potential customers for a mobile phone need to consider their choice very carefully, says David Mumby, business director for computing and telecommunications at the London-based PA Consulting group.

"The duopoly of the 1980s did not succeed in forcing down prices below the price formula," he says. "I think competition will."

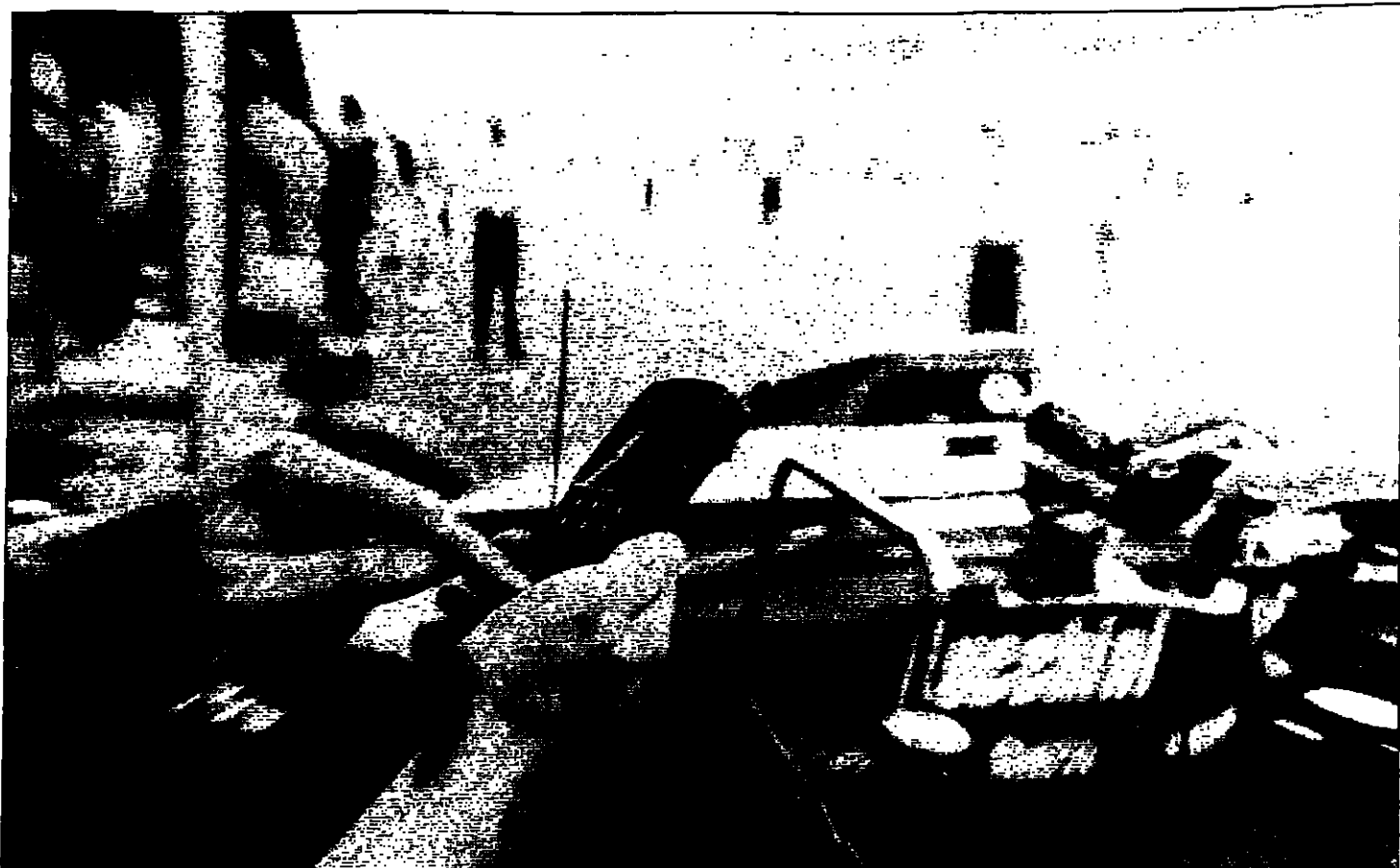
Increasing the level of choice has become an integral part of the strategy of the existing network operators, as well as the newcomers. Vodafone, for example, was the first company — if only by a few days — to launch a commercial cellular mobile phone service in Britain.

Now it is selling five services to subscribers, ranging from one with a low monthly subscription for domestic users to expensive premium services with every bell and whistle aimed at international business travellers.

Tony Riley, the marketing executive of Vodafone, says: "The trend towards more tariffs is inevitable, partly because of the pressures of competition and partly because, as the market widens, suppliers will have to respond to its requirements."

However, it was Cellnet, Vodafone's arch-rival, which started the tariff train rolling when it announced a new Lifetime consumer service last year. And even though it has only three tariffs on its books, Cellnet has gone one step further.

"We are going for a wholesale tariff — giving more flexibility to the service providers," says the company's acting managing director, Robert Warren. Until the beginning of next year neither Cellnet nor Vodafone can sell direct to the public — instead they have to use third-party intermediaries, the service providers.



When you are on the move, having a mobile phone can save the day, but potential buyers need to make their choice of service carefully

Customer choice moves into the fast lane

Cellnet's latest idea is to treat the service providers as true wholesalers of capacity on its network. They are sold the capacity at one rate but encouraged to ignore the Cellnet "tariff sheet" and to be inventive in the way they package that capacity for resale.

"We are beginning to see some interesting new tariffs from the service providers," says Mr Warren, who hopes that by being given this flexibility service providers will be encouraged to "innovate and seek out new market niches", which will allow them to grow.

To encourage service providers to innovate, Mr Warren has announced that, despite being allowed to sell direct to the public from January 1 next year, it will not do so.

"We don't think we need it. We have a pretty good selection of routes to market and the service

providers have surprised everybody with how well they have adapted to the new tariffs," he says. Martin Bartholomew, director of Mercury Mobile Communications Services, disagrees. He sees an increasing trend towards direct sales and cites as evidence the recent history of the market for household electrical goods.

A few years ago 40 per cent of electrical goods were bought from local high street retailers who were themselves supplied by electrical wholesalers — now less than 3 per cent are bought that way, he claims.

"The electrical wholesaler is no more. Those service providers who have built up a large dealer network based on the same model will soon have to face the same truth," Mr Bartholomew says.

One-2-One, the network operating sister company of Mercury Mobile Communications Services, is concentrating on direct sales with its newly launched service in the London area. It surprised the industry last month by announcing low tariffs, including free off-peak local calls.

There are also signs that Vodafone will concentrate on dealing with the public directly when it is allowed to next year.

It has already commissioned a promotions company, for example, to take up direct contact with shops on its behalf, indicating that it is already preparing to by-pass service providers.

Whatever the method of distributing mobile communications services, all are agreed that we are heading for a very competitive phase. The goal all are seeking is the mass market.

Moves such as low, fixed-charge tariffs or free off-peak calls are aimed at the consumer market. So, too, are special fast-registration procedures which allow buyers of mobile phones to use them as they leave the shop. Previously, customers could have been asked to wait for up to a week.

Even if consumers can be persuaded to buy mobile phones, Mr Warren says, the bulk of the turnover is going to be the business market for a long time because business users spend more on calls. "In terms of subscriptions, however, we should become 50/50 within the next couple of years."

The big retailing multiples are clearing their shelves to give mobile telephones a chance this Christmas, he says. "But if the mobile telephone does not produce the turnover it may be some years before they try again."

Right over the rainbow to Oz

A new service in Australia uses the same technology as Europe

People going to Australia for Christmas will be able to take their mobile phones with them and make and receive calls — if they subscribe to the Vodafone Eurodigital service.

A new service just launched in Australia uses the same technology as the Eurodigital service — known as GSM, or global system for mobile communications. And a commercial agreement that takes effect next month will mean that the calls can be billed to the subscriber's address in Britain.

GSM mobile phones from Britain can be used in most other European countries. GSM is now being adopted by all European Community nations, as well as Sweden, Austria and Switzerland.

In Britain, only Vodafone has a GSM network — which is marketed under the brands Euro Digital and Metro Digital.

Although rival Cellnet will start a GSM service next July, by next month, GSM agreements will be signed with every country in western Europe except Belgium. The Netherlands and Spain, where networks will be operational next year.

But the quality of the line — and indeed availability of lines — varies. Service in Germany and Denmark is good, with all major cities and most of the country covered.

In France, both networks — France Telecom and SFR — cover most cities, and follow the main autoroutes. But travellers to Brittany, or the interior of Provence, could be disappointed if they try to use their phone, as these areas are not yet covered.

In Austria the service is only available in Vienna and it is patchy in Ireland. Subscribers holidaying in Portugal could be in for a pleasant surprise, as the service extends almost throughout the country.

One unusual feature about GSM is that the phone operates using a smart card — a plastic card with an embedded

microchip — which contains all of the subscriber's details. The advantage is that people don't necessarily need to carry their phone with them. Instead, they can take just the card, and hire or borrow a phone at their destination.

When the traveller switches on a phone abroad, the card will automatically "know" which country it is in. A message appears on the phone's screen, offering a choice of networks, if there is more than one. Otherwise, it indicates which network signal it is picking up.

The only problem is that subscribers have to pay a hefty premium for the privilege of making calls away from home — and they are also being asked to contribute to the cost of receiving calls abroad.

The call charge is worked out on the basis of the local tariff in the country where the call is being made, plus a handling

charge levied by the subscriber's home operator.

Vodafone charges 35 per cent. If the call being made is international, an extra charge will be made for the international link — the rate being determined by the local telephone company's rates.

Finally, an additional handling charge may be imposed by the service provider with which the subscriber is registered. And VAT will be added, in the normal way.

If subscribers receive an international call, they will have to pay the international call charge, and the caller will be billed only for the local section. Subscribers should also be aware that call tariffs vary from one country to another and between rival network operators in any one country.

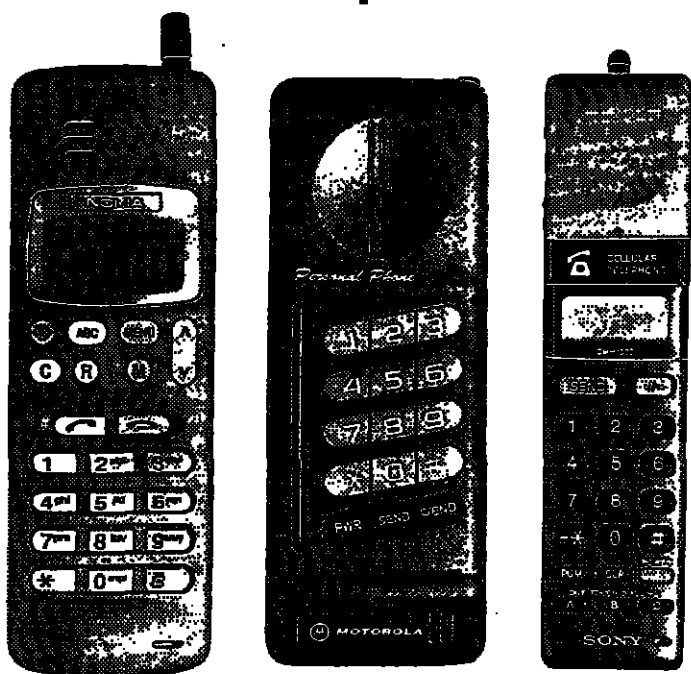
The highest charges for national calls are in France at 58p a minute for peak-time calls, and the lowest Finland at 16p. Germany is also expensive, at 49p a minute, peak rate. In most countries, the tariffs level out at between 20p and 30p a minute.

SARA MACMILLAN

The phone operates using a smart card

THE DEAL OF AN AIRTIME.

(A £75 cheque when you buy a mobile phone from Granada.)



Buy either a Sony CM-H333, a Nokia 101 or a Motorola Personal mobile phone before 6th November, get it connected by Granada and we'll send you a cheque back for £75.

Whichever phone you choose, we'll make sure it's fully charged and working so you can use it the moment you leave the shop.*What's more, this offer is available on both standard and low-user tariffs. As

well as a phone, we'll also give you honest, trustworthy advice. (In short: the right phone, the right package, the right price.)

For more information call free on 0800 248 800 or pop down to your local Granada shop. And before you know it, we'll pop a cheque in the post.

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YOUR LOCAL SHOP

A mobile phone fast, without any fast talking

*£75 cheque issued following clearance of first airtime payment provided applicant is still connected with Granada Mobile Phones. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other mobile phone offer. Full details contained in offer leaflet available in-store. *Subject to Airtime Provider Capacity at time of purchase.

VODAFONE

cellnet

Sizing up the opposition

As mobiles become smaller and offer more features, manufacturers turn to the fashion-conscious buyer



The no-hands earpiece telephone that fits in your pocket

Early mobile phone users were masters of compromise. If a handset was small enough to be convenient to carry, it was certain to have a short battery life and a shaky record of dealing with calls.

To look for longer operating times and more reliability, you had to buy a transportable. Lugging around something the size and weight of a small car battery made the mobile communications less exciting than all the glossy advertising promised.

But today technology is dispelling the need for compromise. Modern phones are small and stylish, often capable of remaining on standby for up to 24 hours and crammed with features, including voice-assisted dialling and sockets for faxes.

The race to produce the smallest, smartest and most imaginatively styled mobile phone has become ever more frenzied as the number of manufacturers in the market has increased.

One of the later entrants is Sony, which aims to turn mobile phones into everyday electronic items, like the ubiquitous Walkman. Mike Rose, Sony's product planning and engineering manager for the UK, says that the company's mobile phones have halved in size over the past four years, and could halve again over the next four.

Mobile phone makers once thought that they had reached the limits of miniaturisation because a phone has to reach from the ear to the mouth. But flip-up microphones and earpieces and the separation of the handset into different parts are making phones the size of a pen or credit cards a real possibility.

"People want smaller, reliable, easy-to-use phones," Mr Rose says. "They also want phones that are stylish. A lot of the features on different models are now essentially the same, so good looks are one way of setting them apart."

Earlier this year, Sony launched what it claims is the smallest cellphone in the world. The main unit is about the size of a cigarette packet with a flip-down microphone.

As an add-on, users can buy a plug-in earpiece and microphone and wear the phone in a breast pocket for hands-free

conversations. Such innovation is far from cheap, however. The phone costs nearly £500 and a full range of accessories, such as a hands-free car kit, can add another £600 to the price.

Phones like this are eye-catching technological showpieces, but most people choose simpler, cheaper models. Many makers now produce basic, good-looking, easy-to-use phones.

NEC, one of the original big four of the UK mobile phone industry, along with Motorola, Nokia and Panasonic, recently launched the P100 "Popular" Phone, a small and simple model, priced at around £300 and aimed specifically at users attracted by the new, lower cellphone tariffs.

Sony has also attracted a lot of attention with a model designed to be the same size and shape as a Mars Bar.

James Robins, NEC's mobile communications promo-

tions executive, argues that improved reliability is also something new mobile users will see as essential after years of listening to tales of lost lines and unintelligible reception from earlier users.

All mobile phones have to be approved for use in Britain, but product certification is not a badge of quality. According to Mr Robins, different phone models may have the same technical specifications but vary enormously in reception quality because of the size and position of the antenna and microphone.

"You need to find a bench test in a magazine to test how reliable a phone really is, or use it yourself in a shop," Mr Robins says.

"There are a lot of additional features on modern phones but, to be honest, for most users they are only bells and whistles. Most people use a simple BT phone at home, with a few memory numbers and automatic redial, and that

is what they use with a mobile, too."

Price is a big issue for buyers, and a very misleading one. This month's *What to Buy for Business* magazine carries a detailed investigation of the mobile phone market. Its cheapest best buy recommendation, the NEC CM3, has a street price of only £83, but the magazine also recommends three hand portables ranging in price from £150 to £265 and a GSM digital phone costing £650.

Street prices can be a fraction of list prices, although bargains need to be viewed carefully. Often suppliers discount the cost of the phone and more than make up for the lost profit in higher airtime charges.

Overall, you will pay more in the long run. "Free" phone offers, which were often expensive when the airtime surcharges were accounted for, are rare these days, says *What to Buy*, but it found the NEC CM3, which had a list price of £750 last year, on sale for as little as £35 "although we dread to think what that dealer would do to your call charges".

The lesson is simple. Check the small print of an airtime agreement and, above all, shop around.

"Buying a mobile phone should be no different from buying any other electronic item," Mr Robins says. "You should be able to look at it, hold it in your hand, and test how it works."

"Some dealers will even let you hire a handset for a week to see how you get on with it. Good suppliers want you to go away with something that suits you; they don't want an unhappy customer who comes back with a complaint that has to be dealt with."

Like personal computers, mobile phones usually have a product life cycle of between a year and 18 months. Today's top of the price range technological innovations will be old hat and heavily discounted within a year or two, when the fashion-conscious buyers, who make up a sizeable chunk of the mobile phone market, turn to other models instead.

In phones, as in most other consumer markets, you have to pay to be chic.

DAVID HEWSON

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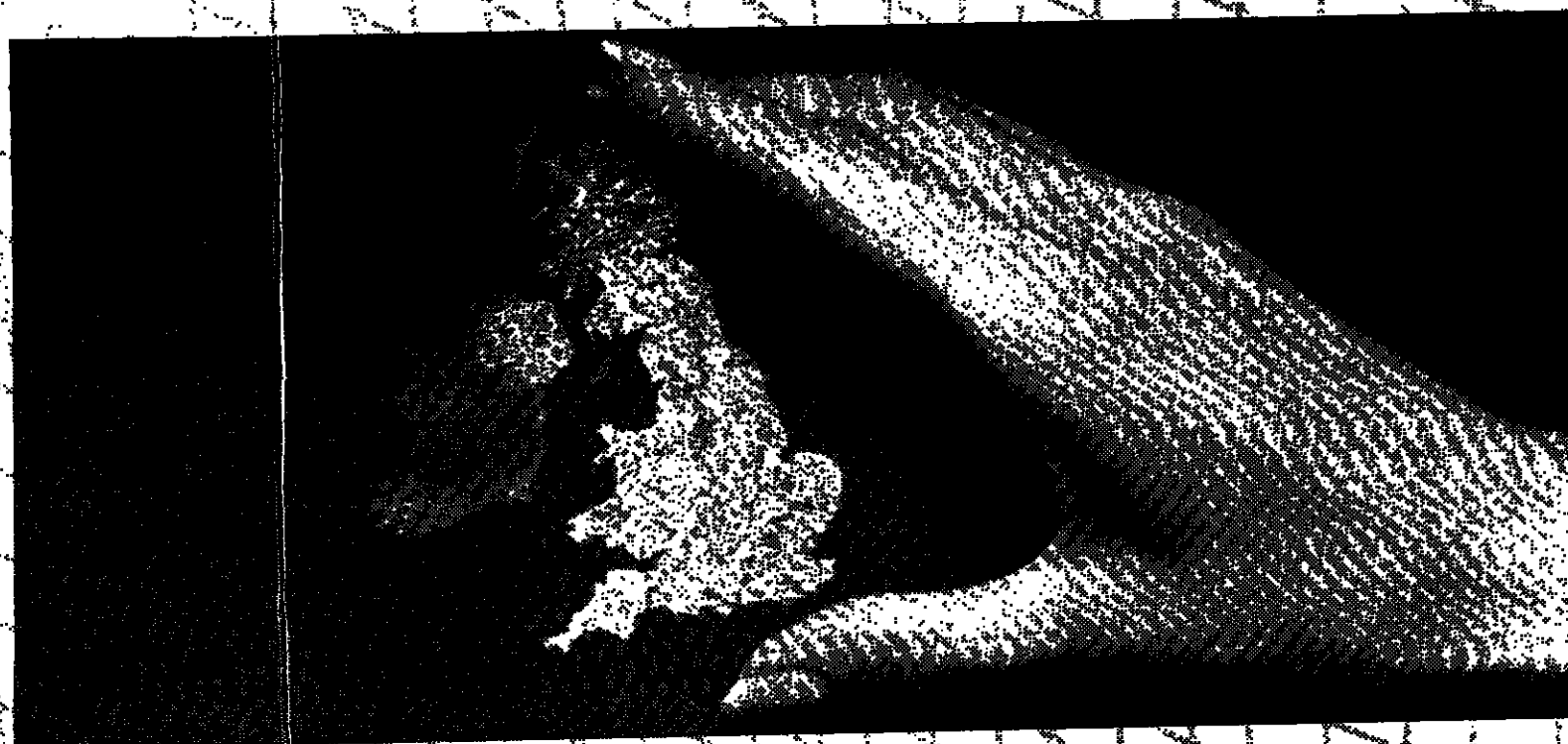
Cellnet
12p a min

صكنا من الامم



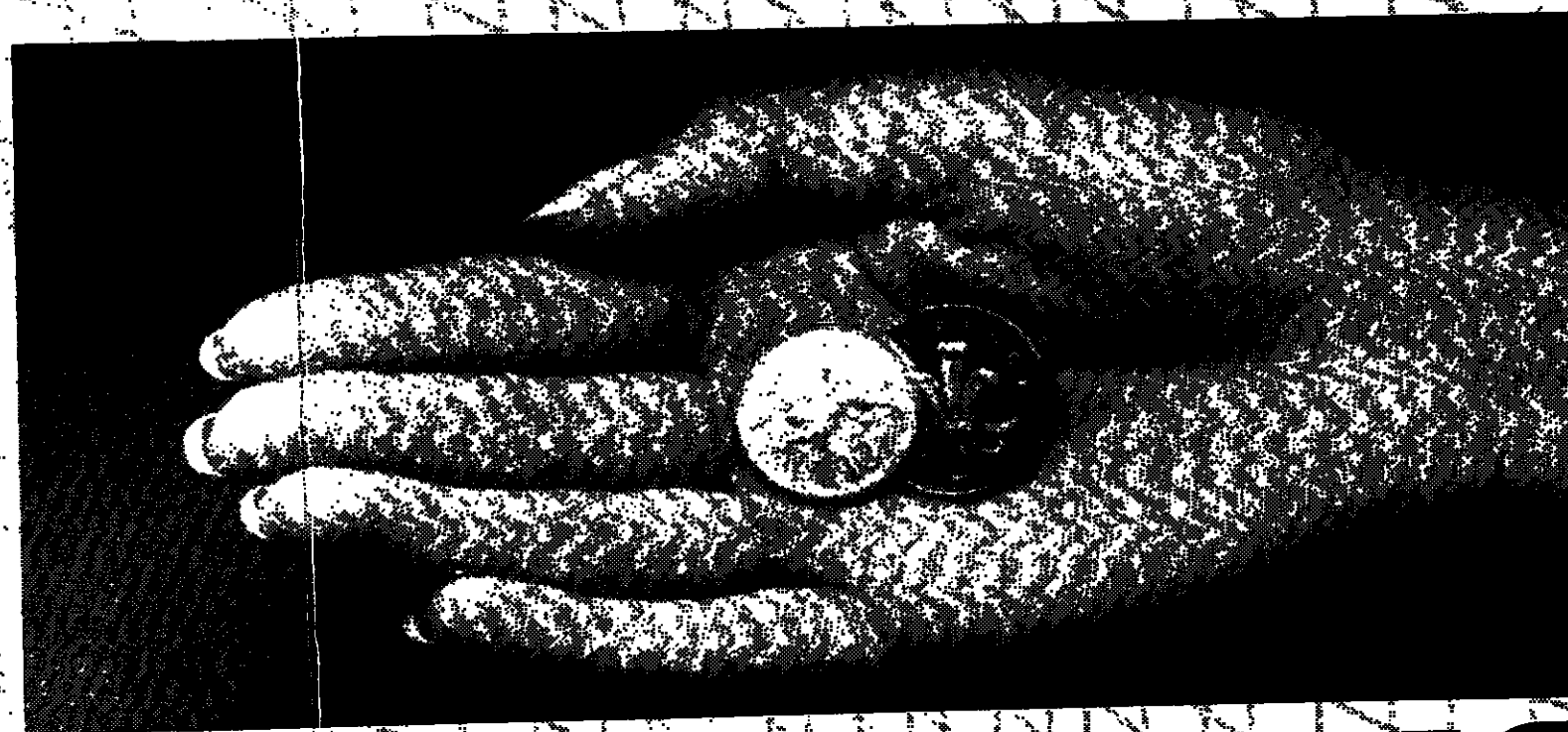
Small phones

Mobile phones are getting even smaller. This is Sony's latest.



need a big network

They don't come any bigger than Cellnet.
Make sure your mobile phone is connected to Cellnet.



and small tariffs.

Cellnet gives you a choice of tariffs, with calls from as little as 12p a minute, so you can choose the most economical rates for you.
For more information, call 0800 21 4000.



The big network for small phones.

Phone thieves in £50 million sting

A crime-wave of epidemic proportions is hitting Britain. Mobile phone theft is costing industry and users £50 million a year and accounts for 40 per cent of reported car break-ins. Yet only two city police forces have dedicated units to fight it.

The police have named 1993 the year of the phone thief and a seminar took place at a mobile communications exhibition last week, where the police and industry exchanged ideas on how best to tackle the problem.

Phone stealing is an organised racket which has involved thefts at knife-point, dodgy dealers who buy in and re-badged phones which have been stolen to order and the hijacking of complete shipments of phones in transit. According to the Federation of Communications Services, 10,000 phones a month are being stolen.

Unscrupulous dealers can form a ready outlet for stolen goods. They know how to "re-chip" phones to give them a new identity for an unsuspecting new customer looking for a bargain. Burglaries of dealers' own premises are also common.

Most, but not all, of the proceeds of these robberies remains in Britain, though a significant proportion of stolen phones are sent to other countries which use the same type of mobile network and where equipment prices are higher.

Most criminals target mobile phones left in parked cars, on window sills in pubs or in careless-

Carphone thefts account for 40 per cent of robberies from cars, Andrew Emmerson writes

ly-placed briefcases and handbags. One particularly nasty innovation is "jamming", the name given to the lucrative activity of gangs who hang around traffic lights and force drivers stopped on red to give up their phones.

At the lowest level there is petty or opportunist theft, sometimes just for kicks and the telephonic equivalent of joyriding. The thrill is in making a few free phone calls until the former owner notices the mobile networks and the phone is switched off. These phones may be sold for pin money in pubs or else dumped.

Nowadays sophisticated software built into the networks protects the system and users so effectively that fraud can be spotted quickly. Both Vodafone and Cellnet have instituted three levels of security to outwit the thieves. They include trying to prevent call fraud where a mobile phone number is "cloned", inserted into a stolen phone, so that calls are charged to that account.

Bandit Alert — to use Vodafone's term — rings the alarm bells if calls are made in London and then, for

example, 20 minutes later in Liverpool from the same cellphone number — or if two separate calls are made simultaneously from one number. Both phones are switched off and the owner alerted.

The second level of protection, Credit Alert, monitors users' calling patterns and if a phone belonging to someone who makes £5 of calls each week suddenly runs up a £500 bill in one day it is electronically disabled.

Cellnet tells how it was forced to disconnect the cellphone of a journalist when the warning system notified that a large number of foreign calls were being made on it. On investigation it transpired that he had swapped his mobile phone with his wife who did, in fact, make many calls overseas.

The third level works differently on the two networks but in both cases ensures that only authorised calls can be made to certain Asian countries to which, statistically, the largest number of fraudulent calls are made.

Even if the risk of call theft has been diminished, physical theft of cell-phones remains a problem. To individual owners wishing to protect their investment, police advice is simple. Keep your phone out of sight and check it is covered for insurance.

While mobile phones permanently installed in cars may be covered by the vehicle insurance, hand-portables are a different matter. They are not covered by most home

DON'T LET YOUR MOBILE BECOME MOBILE ...



LOOK AFTER YOUR MOBILE PHONE OR A THIEF WILL

A Greater Manchester Police poster warning motorists to guard mobile phones — gangs have pounced on drivers at traffic lights

contents policies, which is why many service providers offer policies covering various levels of protection. Some of these also cover "airtime misuse".

If a phone is stolen, the owner should alert the police and the network operator on the number given with the user instructions. Service charges will continue to

accrue and the cost of replacing the phone will almost certainly turn out higher than the heavily subsidised price at which it was originally supplied.

In some cases it may be cheaper to pay off the old contract and start afresh with a new service provider — and, as often as not, with a new mobile number as these are not

HOW TO LOOK AFTER YOUR MOBILE PHONE

- DON'T** Park in isolated areas or dark places
- DON'T** Leave your mobile phone in an unattended car — if you must, lock it out of sight
- DON'T** Forget if your phone has a lock code — use it
- DON'T** Let your mobile phone attract unwanted attention in the street
- DON'T** Forget to record details of your electronic serial number (ESN) — consider separate insurance

IF YOU SEE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS CALL THE POLICE

always transferrable. There are, of course, innocent people in the market for a cut-price mobile phone, but buyers should treat with great suspicion any bargains offered at car-boot sales or in pubs. If stolen, the phones will be impossible to reconnect legally. A tell-tale sign may be the lack of instructions and essential accessories.

Some scams are even cruder: accessory manufacturer ORA Electronics recounts how one of its dealers was asked to fit a new battery to a cellphone the customer had bought "cheap" in a pub. The agent sensed something wrong and on opening it found the phone full of Plasticine. It was a dummy stolen from a dealer's display.

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Bird-watching is only one of the surprising new uses for the old-fashioned 'bleeper'

To the uninitiated, paging means an old-fashioned "bleeper" of the kind beloved by doctors and factory shop floor managers, a rudimentary communication tool that has, in Britain at least, remained doggedly unfashionable.

In Singapore, the world's most pager-friendly nation, there are 300 beepers of various levels of sophistication for every 1,000 adults. In America, the pager rate stands at 40 per thousand, while in the UK only 12 or 13 in 1,000 have warmed to the idea.

British paging companies hope all this is about to change once the public, and families in particular, begin to understand the friendly, message-filled nature of modern paging.

One of the problems that paging faces is that, outside the dedicated core of 750,000 users in the country, few of us have much idea of what a modern pager can do. The simple beepers of early paging days are still around, but modern paging is all about intelligence and the ability to pass on messages.

In the summer, for example, Mercury launched a paging service called Amigo targeted directly at private users. The tiny NEC pager unit costs £80 with a £6-per-month subscription. Built into the Amigo is one pre-set message — "phone home" — and the ability to store six messages of your own.

Anyone can set off the "phone home" message on your Amigo for free, while the other six messages can be triggered directly from a phone for the cost of a local call.

For another £2 a month, users can receive up to a further 100 custom messages phoned, again at local rates, to an operator who then

The pager tuned to a call of the wild



Paging services are used to alert ornithologists to sightings of rare birds

passes them on through the paging system.

A rival consumer service has also been launched by Hutchison Telecom. With a £100 Philips pager and a monthly flat fee of £14.50, users can receive unlimited numbers of individual messages phoned through the system's answering bureau.

For a monthly fee of £23, (or £33.50 if you want coverage into the main European cities) Hutchison will add in a personalised answering service run according to your own "script", so that the call

will be answered in your name, just as if it were being received in your own office.

Used intelligently — and the various paging tariffs can be as just as complex as those applied to mobile phones — paging can offer a sophisticated one-way messaging service for a fraction of the price of a mobile phone.

But paging need not end at passing on messages. A number of companies are now looking at the technology as a way of providing "data funnels", simple handheld devices that can display

up-to-date information yet be carried around in a jacket pocket.

Rare Bird Alert Pagers, for example, is one of three services for keen ornithologists, providing a minute-by-minute news feed logging sightings of rare birds throughout the British Isles. Founder Dick Filby says that Rare Bird has several hundred subscribers and is growing all the time.

For £28 a month, including a rented pager, subscribers get news of bird movements and the benefits of a message-

ing pager, too. Rare Bird chose the Vodafone service as its paging base because at the time it was the only one to cover the Scilly Isles, a popular bird destination.

Financial news is another topic which is ideal for paging. Reuters recently took over one of the pioneer financial paging services, Future Pagers, which now offers an extensive 24-hour news service covering currencies, financial futures, interest rates and other financial information.

Hutchison's rival Pulse service has a similarly wide information spread, and the pager can be programmed to beep when a share price hits a particular high or low set by the user. Several more general paging information services, from racing results to cricket scores, have been tried, but with little success.

Paging is also attracting the interest of personal computer manufacturers planning new ranges of handheld personal communicators. A paging add-on to Apple's electronic notepad, the Message Pad, which will enable it to store messages and receive information services, is expected next year.

Even today's more intelligent pagers can receive data sent directly from an office personal computer if the system is set up correctly.

Paging will always be a one-way communications system, but privately pager users often admit that they like being able to vet incoming messages and then decide when, and in what order, to handle them.

With falling mobile phone prices, paging will have to continue to become smarter and cheaper if it is to win the support of a wider audience still ignorant of its potential.

DAVID HEWSON

Preserving the royal secrecy

Digital technology will dominate the market — and beat eavesdroppers

In recent months four new digital mobile phone services have been launched. These are technically superior to the old analogue variety. They can carry many more calls of a higher quality and can guarantee that nobody, apart perhaps from GCHQ, will be able to listen to what you say.

The new networks cannot yet match the coverage of the old analogue ones, but that will change in the not too distant future.

Perhaps the greatest significance of the new digital services is that they may bring mobile communications to the mass market. There are now 1.7 million mobile phone subscribers, most of whom are business users. By the year 2000, this figure is predicted to rise to 5.6 million, many of whom will be domestic consumers.

This growth would not be technically possible on the old analogue networks, which have an absolute capacity of 2.5 to 3 million users. Combined, the four new services will accommodate some 10 million callers.

One of the main advantages of digitalisation is the superior call quality it provides. Anyone who has struggled to make sense of a call while travelling around the M25 will appreciate this.

Moreover, unlike the old analogue networks which could be eavesdropped with ease, the new digital networks use encryption so complex that they are virtually impossible to bug. Even if you are not a member of the royal family, this is reassuring.

Digitalisation can also offer better security. If your analogue cellphone is stolen you run the risk of having to pay for all the thief's calls, be they to Brighton or Baghdad, before your mobile number is blocked.

All digital mobile telephones require a removable smart card which carries the identity of the subscriber, among other things. When the card is removed the phone is unusable, except for 999 calls, and

so unauthorised users cannot run up your phone bill. The other main advantage of digitalisation is the prospect of lower costs.

Digital telephony is also significant for leading to the formation of a common international mobile phone standard. Hitherto, countries with mobile phone services used proprietary analogue standards. This confined mobile phone users to their country of origin and, ironically, prevented international mobile telephony from getting off the ground.

GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) is the international mobile phone standard that started life in 1983. However, it took ten years for the first GSM service to be launched in the UK.

Some non-European countries also committed to GSM include Australia, Cyprus, Egypt, Hong Kong, Hungary, Malaysia, New Zealand, In-

dia, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Argentina and South Africa.

Despite competition from the newcomers, the existing analogue networks will be with us for the foreseeable future. They are still the only truly national mobile phones, services covering 98 per cent of the population and 85 per cent of the land mass.

Moreover, they offer a range of services that the new networks cannot yet match, although this will change in the near future. Analogue handsets can also be considerably cheaper than the new digital ones, some of which have a true price of over £1,000.

It is likely that the analogue and digital networks will continue to run in parallel until the former's licences expire in the next century.

Then, digital networks could become the cellular standard, just as CDs replaced vinyl and colour TVs replaced the monochrome variety. Sometime around the year 2000 there will be more digital subscribers than analogue.

SARAH FRATER



An engineer checks a digital base station

THE TIMES
Fishin

Sarah Frater

On how to catch

phone calls

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Fishing for a cheap line

Sarah Frater
on how to keep
down mobile
phone costs

For those wanting a mobile phone service, the problem is what to choose from all those on offer and how to work out the cost.

Mobile phone charges may be getting cheaper but they are still more expensive than an ordinary "fixed line" phone with BT and Mercury. And, unless you are disciplined about the type and timing of your calls, you could spend as much on the new "low use" services as you would on the higher cost business tariffs.

All the services involve an initial sign-on charge and a monthly line rental as well as the cost of the calls themselves. The ten different tariffs are tailored to different groups of users and vary according to when calls are made and where they are made from.

Celnet's and Vodafone's business tariffs are known as Primetime and Business respectively. They each carry a sign-on fee of £50 and a monthly line rental of £25 but in response to competition from the new digital networks, both introduced consumer or "low use" tariffs earlier this year.

Celnet's Lifetime and Vodafone's Lowcall tariffs have much lower sign-on and line rental charges, but the



Whether huntin', shootin' or fishin' — a mobile phone can be a lifeline in the wild

cost of making calls is virtually double the business rate. For all practical purposes, these services work out less expensive only if you do not use them very much.

In September, Mercury introduced One-2-One, a digital mobile phone service aimed at small businesses and

personal users. It is currently only available in the M25 region, although wider coverage is expected next year.

One-2-One has two levels of charges — Business Call, designed for business or more frequent users, and Personal Call for consumers or less frequent users.

In a move to get One-2-One off the ground, local calls using the Personal Call service will be free during off-peak times. This compares with the 5p per minute to be charged by Vodafone's competing Metro Digital network.

In direct competition with One-2-One, Celnet and Vodafone recently introduced their own services within the M25. Celnet's Citytime and Vodafone's Capitalcall both offer cheaper rates for subscribers restricting their calls to within the M25.

Vodafone has a further two services. Eurodigital is a pan-European service aimed at travelling business people that can be used to make and receive calls in parts of Europe: while Metrodigital, now available in 50 towns, is aimed at people living in cities and making calls mainly in their locality.

From the beginning of December the costs of using Metrodigital will be calculated slightly differently to most other services. There are the usual sign-on and monthly subscription fees, but call charges will depend not only on what time you call, but where you are calling from.

Users will log on to the Metrodigital network in their so-called "home cell" where calls cost half the normal rate. If you step out of Metrodigital coverage, you can still make calls but these are charged at the penal rate of 65p per minute peak and 10p per minute off-peak. For emergency use only during peak times. The problem with distance-related charges is that you run the risk of inadvertently making

ing expensive long-distance calls when you thought you were making cheap local calls. To avoid this problem, Metrodigital phones alert you to numbers outside your home cell. If you want, you can then cancel the call at no cost.

It is worth remembering that calling a mobile phone from the fixed network costs almost as much as calling the fixed network from a mobile phone. BT, for example, charges calls to mobile phones at its "M" rate which works out at 22p per minute.

All these sign-on, subscription and call tariffs can leave the average user very confused. Those so inclined could use a series of complex simultaneous equations to calculate which service is the most economical.

Very few will want to do this, but you should think carefully about the sort of calls you will be making. If your actual call profile is different from the one you anticipated, it could work out expensive.

● The author is Editor of What to Buy for Business magazine.

● For a breakdown of mobile phone services, see the chart left. All examples are for charges based on national calls made from outside the London area unless otherwise stated. All prices exclude VAT.

(a) Available only within area bounded by M25. (b) From December 1, 1993. (c) Off-peak local calls are free. Source: Telecom Europa.

On a remote mountain-side in the Lake District, the familiar dialling beeps of a mobile phone are followed by the gentle whisper of a tiny fax machine.

In a few seconds, an ECG chart of the heart patterns of a stricken fell walker is faxed from the fells to Barrow hospital, analysed, and the correct medical treatment despatched back to the mountains, either by phone or fax.

It is a new technique that relies on one of the latest developments in mobile communications technology, the transfer of data and faxes through cellular networks, and one the Langdale Ambleside mountain rescue team believe will save lives.

The phone and slimline battery-powered fax machine used by the team is the latest development in portable technology from NEC, and a combination now in use in a growing range of applications, from medicine to sales teams and travelling customer support schemes.

But even a year ago the idea of reliable fax or computer links through mobile phones was little more than a dream because of the incompatibilities between the two media.

Computers and fax machines produce digital information; most mobile phone networks are analogue systems, effectively two-way radios that behave like phones but, technically, are very different.

Until recently, linking notebook PCs and faxes into cellular phones has been almost impossible, except for a few very expensive and somewhat limited specialist solutions that placed an interface between the two devices.

But the arrival of new

In a jam?
Send
off a fax
Whether up a
mountain or
stuck on the
road, call help



Sending a fax from the cab of a lorry in a lay-by

cellphone links and digital phone networks promise an end to the days when mobile data users had to find a normal land line in order to transfer information.

For the moment, the only way to send data through a mobile phone is through one of the latest breed of analogue

cellphone handsets designed to talk directly to digital devices and act as full-functioning mobile phones too.

NEC's phone and fax combination is a pace-setter in mobile technology, and as such fetches a premium price, around £1,000 excluding VAT for the two. But as data sockets start to appear on a growing number of mobile phones, the cost of using data on the move is starting to fall.

The most exciting technical development for mobile data transmissions is the arrival of digital networks which promise faster, more accurate transmissions, and will mean that PC users will no longer need to buy a modem.

Although digital voice phones are now available, data has lagged behind because the technical standards for both the GSM and One 2 One networks have yet to be completed, so no data-equipped handsets are available.

By next year, mobile digital data services should become increasingly common. A simple phone socket will allow the user to send or receive fax or data at standard, land line high speed rates, but the split between voice and data on digital phones will also allow you to have a phone conversation on the same line while a fax or computer message is being sent or received.

For the moment, however, analogue mobile data transmissions are still subject to the vagaries of the cellular system, which is inherently less accurate than the coming digital ones. This means that error correction facilities and good reception are essential if fax and data communications are to work successfully.

DAVID HEWSON

COMPARING MOBILE PHONE CHARGES

	Connection fee	Monthly subscription	Peak charge per min	Off peak per min	Peak times all Mon-Sat
Celnet Primetime	£50	£25	25p	10p	8am-10pm
Lifetime Citytime(a)	£50	£12.77	15p	10p	8am-7pm
Vodafone Business	£50	£25	25p	10p	7.30am-9.30pm
Lowcall	£50	£12.77	15p	10p	8am-7pm
Capital Call(b)	£50	£25	25p	10p	7.30am-9.30pm
Euro Digital	£50	£27.50	25p	10p	7.30am-9.30pm
Metro Digital(b)	£50	£20	10p-65p	5p-10p	7.30am-9.30pm
One-2-One (a)	£20	£20	15p	8p	7am-9pm
Business Call	£20	£12.50	25p	10p	7am-7pm
Personal Call(c)	£20	£12.50	25p	10p	7am-7pm

THE NEW HAND PORTABLE WHICH COULD SAVE YOU AS MUCH AS 90% ON INTERNATIONAL CALLS.

International Connect is a new low cost call routing system which can save you up to 90% on International calls made from mobile, hotel or public phones.

Easy to join and easy to use, International Connect has been designed with the business user in mind.

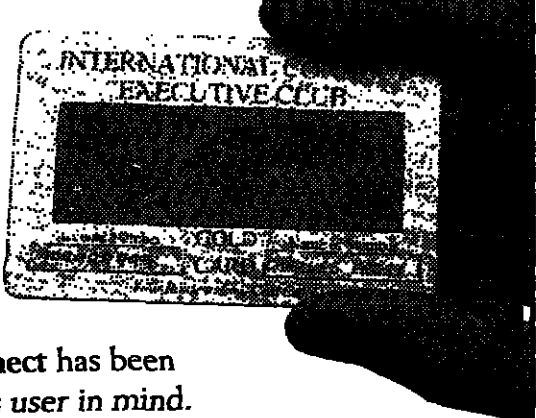
Simply subscribe to our service for as little as £25 per year (plus 17.5% VAT) - deposit a small amount for calls - and you can be saving money within minutes.

No more highly inflated call charges! No more problems with International call barring! No more large deposits to Service Providers!

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international Connect 081-424 8473

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Rabbit, rabbit on a budget

One cheaper alternative to a full mobile phone is the budget Rabbit service. You can only make outgoing calls — it will not receive them — and you need to be within 100 yards of a base station.

In areas such as central London you can often make your call sitting in the comfort of a nearby café or pub. The phone costs £100 for a street-only version or £200 for one that can also work as a high-quality cordless phone at home.

The subscription charge is £7.05 per month and call charges are 23p per minute at peak times and 12p per minute off peak.

Next year a system called Meet Me will be introduced which, by clever use of paging technology, will make Rabbit operate more like a proper mobile.

Confused about which mobile phone is right for you? Ask the AA.



Which tariff? Which network? Which mobile phone?

With so many options, it's hard to know which to choose. And making the wrong choice can be an expensive mistake.

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NEWS

Major accuses Adams of blackmail

John Major angrily rejected peace overtures from Sinn Féin, accusing its leader of blackmail as MPs, churchmen and the people of Belfast united in revulsion at the Shankill Road bombing, in which ten people died.

The prime minister denounced Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, for setting conditions for an end to IRA violence. He said: "I am not going to do deals with people who plant bombs and kill innocent people".

Pages 1, 2

Commonwealth opens rift with Turkey

Britain was at odds with one of its Nato allies after the suggestion of sanctions against Turkey over its occupation of northern Cyprus. A communiqué from the Commonwealth conference in Cyprus called for the "speedy withdrawal" of all Turkish forces and settlers.

Pages 1, 10

Church-state enquiry

A commission to examine the relationship between the church and state is likely to be set up by next month's General Synod. It could herald the biggest reorganisation of the Church of England since this century.

Page 1

Bosnia peace talks

The United Nations is considering a new round of peace talks in London to end the civil war in the former Yugoslavia.

Pages 1, 11

Rail explosion

The IRA exploded a device on a bridge over a railway line in Buckinghamshire. It followed the attack on a line near Reading on Sunday night.

Page 1

Security schism

RUC special branch officers are becoming increasingly frustrated with the tactics of the IRA in Northern Ireland. Relations have been soured by a dispute over the flow of information to the anti-terrorist branch in London.

Page 2

Child-support ruling

A divorced father whose maintenance payments were almost quadrupled by the Child Support Agency won a court ruling that it had been inappropriate for his former wife to turn to the agency for aid.

Page 3

Palm-print pension

Pensioners may be required to give their palm-prints before they can collect their pensions, as the government attempts to curb benefit fraud.

Page 4

Commuting slows to horse's pace

The number of commuters entering London during the morning rush-hours has dropped below a million for the first time in 30 years, but cars move barely faster than a Victorian horse-drawn cab, averaging 10.2mph. Network SouthEast just managed to beat its peak period target of 88 per cent of trains arriving within five minutes of schedule.

Page 1

Murder mystery

Forty-seven years ago, a cinema manager was murdered while a film soundtrack covered the noise of a gunshot. A man has now told police that his father was one of the killers.

Page 5

Major denies drift

John Major brushed off Baroness Thatcher's criticism that "intellectually he was drifting with the tide" over the ERM. If he was drifting, he said, he had "plenty of company on the raft".

Page 8

Day of reckoning

A verdict due to be given today on Erich Mielke, former head of East Germany's secret police, is expected to mark the end of Germany's judicial reckoning with the communist past.

Page 9

Palestinians freed

Israel freed several hundred Palestinian prisoners in the first concrete move towards reconciliation since the peace agreement was signed last month.

Page 10

Return to the fold

Commonwealth leaders issued a formal invitation to South Africa to return to the fold after more than 30 years as an international pariah. The UN arms embargo will remain until after non-racial elections in April.

Page 10

Balkan tightrope

President Clinton walking a foreign policy tightrope in his latest attempts to stop the war in the Balkans from spreading south into Macedonia.

Page 11



Riot police protecting a passenger at Charles de Gaulle airport, Paris, as Air France staff voted to continue their strike. Page 9

Pit forecast

Almost two-thirds of British Coal's 30 deep mines may survive privatisation, ministers believe. The number of miners will continue to fall.

Page 23

On the hook

Robert Montague, head of the Tiphook trailer rental company, was charged with embezzled shareholders who have seen the value of their investment plummet after three successive profits warnings this year.

Page 23

Markets

The FT-SE 100 Index fell 14.2 to 3184.8 on doubts that interest rates would be cut before the Budget. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 79.9 to 80.5 after a rise from \$1.4772 to \$1.4865 and from DM2.4702 to DM2.4854.

Page 26

Football

Bobby Gould, who resigned as Coventry City manager at the weekend, was charged with misconduct by a Football Association disciplinary commission for comments to a referee during a match in August.

Page 44

Rugby Union

Simon Hodgkinson withdrew with a thigh strain from the Midlands Division side to play the All Blacks at Leicester this afternoon.

Page 44

Fencing

The new president of the Amateur Fencing Association, to be elected today, must increase membership, rekindle Olympic success, improve the sport's image and satisfy the Sports Council that fencing has a future.

Page 40

Cruel and dispiriting

We all indulge in positive discrimination and most of us have benefited from it, says Matthew Parris.

Page 16

BODY AND MIND

Agonising pain: Gout attacks one in 200, is four times more common in men than women and is not confined to the hard-drinking classes.

Page 17

LAW

Contradictory attitude: When the rapist has assaulted and threatened the victim, we all demand punishment. But what about rape without violence?

Page 35

Ancient Rome in Malibu

As the Royal Academy prepares its show of drawings from the Getty Museum in Malibu, Marcus Binney examines the controversy over the \$16 million building, which attempts to recreate the architecture of a first-century Roman villa.

Page 31

Mercedes in top gear

Mercedes Sosa, the "voice of Latin-America", entranced a sell-out Festival Hall audience at the weekend.

Page 32

Silent discoveries

A reel from a lost Greta Garbo film, and a revelatory survey of the films of the neglected comic genius Charlie Chase, were among the highlights exhumed at the Pordenone Festival of Silent Film.

Page 33

ARTS

Lord Reith returns to the BBC in the shape of Timothy West. He is not impressed with how his creation has developed. *Without Walls: Reith to the Nation* (Channel 4 9pm).

School for statesmen

It is to the reformed Whitehall of the 1990s that foreign governments are looking for inspiration and expertise. In the eyes of other nations, the energetic men and women of the British civil service know best after all.

Page 15

A Gallic Aerofoil

A man of M. Ballard's sophistication knows that France must adapt itself to the international economy or become a declining backwater with a Third World airline to boot. *Courage, mon ami!*

Page 15

Question of identity

Civil libertarians need have no objections to an ID card for social security claimants.

Page 15

BERNARD LEVIN

Lord Justice Woolf is right, and not only right but courageous, and not only right and courageous but sensible, and not only right, courageous and sensible but also wise.

Page 16

LIBBY PURVES

There is little indication in the Family Planning Association's new "workbook" on primary school education, as to how you teach with outraged parents who have been proudly shown explicit diagrams labelled "Daddy's testicles" in shaky crayon.

Page 14

LYNNE TRUSS

He was deeply offended by the sweeping accusation of post-natal depression, yet didn't dare go out to buy the newspaper for fear he would find an immense placard outside the shop, screaming "Bookies' Loomies Official!"

Page 16

V.S. Pritchett leads 19 members of the Society of Authors in calling on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to keep books free of VAT.

Page 15

A Nato that admits Czech and Poles while excluding Russians could fuel the very counter-revolution that makes the Czechs and Poles so nervous, strengthening the reactionaries and reviving the Red Army.

Page 15

— The New York Times

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Something rotten in the RSC

Working at the Royal Shakespeare Company, I felt mediocre and tawdry. And I watched other actors storing up bile and bitterness — Alan Cumming, the new Hamlet, lifts the lid on his profession.

Trial by television clip

Should television companies be forced to hand over film footage to the courts? Roger Graef reports in the Media pages.

The nature of marriage

What is mankind's "natural" state? Matt Ridley on whether we are polygamous or monogamous.



Vikram Seth has revived the Booker prize controversy by accusing the chairman of the judges of bad-mouthing his book. Page 3

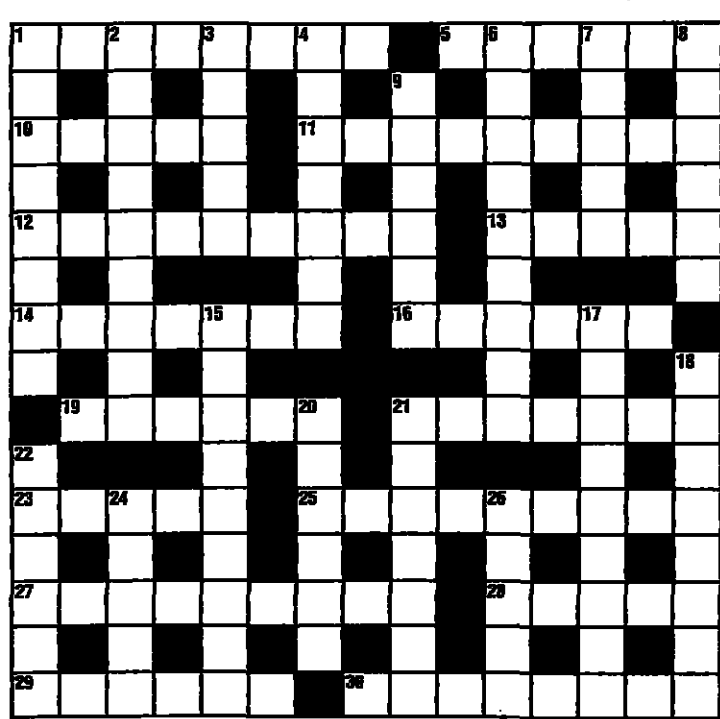


Florence Campbell, a student who, in the wake of the Donnellan case, offers freshers a realistic guide to sex at Oxford. Page 7



Dennis Mickelsen, a Baptist minister whose wife left him for their gardener, says he will go to jail rather than pay her a divorce settlement. Page 3

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,371



- Across
- What commands attendance at a pub that's free? (8).
 - Such friends may have toast at dinner. (6).
 - Bird growing white trapped in overturned detergent (5).
 - First class cricket stroke? Try a run (4-5).
 - There's none more stupid, however (9).
 - Unfit to sleep in the thing (5).
 - Worker getting sack at closure of renowned Bracknell line? (7).
 - Lemur eating a vegetable (6).
 - Large lorry's cold inside, very cold (6).
 - Result of Lethe's water mixing in main and sea (7).
 - Relax with Lang's first supporting picture (5).
 - Seat feels oily, somehow (4,2,3).
- Down
- Star figure's involvement with writer (9).
 - Hang around a resort (5).
 - Stout party was at his peak here (6).
 - Under pressure, second's backing final course (8).
 - Take what's yours in secret (8).
 - Haggler getting extra drink from the landlord? (9).
 - Work for more than one company rising to top positions in the executive tree (5).
 - Strong drink's put round watery trifle (7).
 - China's not good in this game (9).
 - Not a married country girl (5).
 - Agreement to take food during trial (6).
 - When skin scales, it's dead (6).
 - Formidable woman could make cuts in defence (6-3).
 - Sensitive cells — Territorial Army's busted out (5-4).
 - Soundly support with 'eager'? She does (8).
 - Set of bells in church is flatter (6).
 - I lament suffering affliction (7).
 - Vital rocket platform's control unit (3-3).
 - Nothing short of reason, perhaps, can make one more sensible (5).
 - Companion is in a state, becoming yellow (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,370

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SANDSTONE MARRY

Concise Crossword, page 44

THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
East of London	702
West of London	703
North of London	704
South of London	705
West Midlands	706
East Midlands	707
North Midlands	708
South Midlands	709
West of England	710
East of England	711
North of England	712
South of England	713
West of Scotland	714
East of Scotland	715
North of Scotland	716
South of Scotland	717
West of Ireland	718
East of Ireland	719
North of Ireland	720
South of Ireland	721

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LAW 35-37

Write on: The Times Law Awards contest



ARTS 31-33

Without a word, Charley Chase can still make us laugh



SPORT 39-44

Bobby Gould found guilty of misconduct

NEW CHEESE COMES TO MARKET
Small business, 30

THE TIMES

TUESDAY OCTOBER 26 1993

Up to 20 pits may survive privatisation

By Ross Tremen
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST two-thirds of British Coal's 30 remaining deep mines may survive privatisation, ministers believe. The projection is more optimistic than that of industry experts, who expect more than half the pits to shut. The number of mine-workers will continue to fall rapidly, however.

By the end of next year, according to senior industry department sources, there may be as few as 10,000 workers left in Britain's coalmining industry. That would suggest the loss of a further 20,000 mining jobs. About 22,000 miners and staff have left since British Coal declared its plans to shut 31 pits, with the loss of 30,000 jobs, a year ago.

Confirmation of the scale of further job losses is likely to increase anger among opposition and rebel Conservative MPs. Labour has called a supply-day debate on the coal industry tomorrow, in the wake of the announcement by Tim Eggar, the energy minister, of moves to reform the mining industry.

The government's assessment of prospective coal sales is relatively upbeat. Ministers believe successor companies to British Coal may be able to win a market of 40 to 50 million tonnes a year. Of that, about 10 million tonnes is likely to be provided by open-cast workings, leaving collieries to produce 30 to 40 million tonnes a year. There are even hopes of a resumption of exports. The key to government optimism is the growing conviction that transfer to the private sector will

More of British Coal's deep pits may survive than expected but about 20,000 jobs may go, leaving 10,000 miners at work and increasing opposition and rebel MP anger

encourage development of more flexible, cost-effective exploitation of reserves. Ministers expect private-sector operators to respond more nimbly to local markets for power station, industrial and domestic coal, using fewer people underground to produce more premium-grade coal.

Their faith in the ability of British mines to achieve a further productivity revolution has been reinforced by experience at the Point of Ayr mine, in North Wales. British Coal's experiments there with continuous mining machines for driving roadways, and other innovations, have achieved striking results.

The mine is one of ten supposedly "reopened" from closure in March but the distance between it and its market at Fiddler's Ferry power station overshadows its future. Ministers hope, however, that rail privatisation may lead to lower freight rates for bulk loads such as coal.

Private-sector groups have applied to lease and re-open under licence some pits already closed by British Coal. The corporation announced that negotiations had begun with companies anxious to take over Trentham, in Staffordshire, and Coventry Colliery, West Midlands. However, Malcolm Edwards, of Edwards Energy, reacted with alarm to British Coal's stress on surface opportunities at Coventry. "That pit is one of the few sources of low-chlorine

coal for the industrial market in Britain," he said. "We could provide 300 jobs at Coventry. If they are not created there, they will be created in Poland, or Colombia or the US — wherever the coal is imported from."

British Coal is understood to be seeking further details about the mining techniques proposed by Mr Edwards's engineers, which are unlike those employed at the pit in the past.

The corporation is also talking to Ashford Developments, which has proposed building an industrial estate providing up to 2,000 jobs on the site. In tandem with Ashford Peugeot Citroën, the French carmaker that builds Peugeot 306 models at Ryton, near Coventry, it is examining the possibility of setting up a distribution centre. It is understood that this is one of several sites being considered by Peugeot to handle import and export of vehicles by rail through the Channel tunnel.

Mr Edwards is also bidding to re-open the Trentham pit, where British Coal will have to choose between his plan and an alternative proposal for redevelopment of the surface by Stoke-on-Trent Regeneration, a joint venture between Stoke council and St Modwen Properties.

British Coal is now negotiating proposals for resumption of mining at a total of five pits: Betws, Rossington, Markham Main, Clipstone and Trentham.



Roland Gee of Moss Bros, left, with finance director Terry Donovan yesterday

Moss Bros looks smart with 77% rise

THE shake-out in menswear retailing, which has seen the closure or scaling-back of several chains, helped lift Moss Bros, which owns Savoy Tailors Guild, Cecil Gee and The Suit Company. Pre-tax profits rose 77 per cent to £625,000 from £354,000 for the six months to July 31 on turnover that was up to £25.5

million from £23.9 million. Roland Gee, managing director, said the group's share of the market increased from 5.5 to 6 per cent over the period. Although market conditions had "stabilised", he believed there was still "considerable scope for organic growth". Margins were maintained through vigorous control of

costs. Mr Gee said the products had been bought more cost-effectively as manufacturers were eager for business in a lacklustre market. He said he felt under no pressure to spend the group's £10.2 million cash mountain. The interim dividend is held at 1.5p. The shares rose 7p to 245p.

Battle for Paramount goes to Wall Street

From Philip Robinson
IN NEW YORK

PARAMOUNT shares rose on Wall Street last night, as the \$9.5 billion battle for the Hollywood studio heightened between Viacom, the cable television concern and QVC Network, which operates one of America's largest home shopping channels. Viacom's decision to match the \$80 a share cash offer from QVC for 51 per cent of Paramount has the two fighting for control in the stock market.

QVC, which has offered no comment on Viacom's move, was last night widely expected to lift its price. Some analysts predicted it would go to \$85 a share and is prepared to go to \$90, which would value Paramount at \$10.6 billion.

Viacom is expected to be questioned about its financing of the bid when it attempts to convince Wall Street of its arguments. The cash offer for control will cost it \$4.8 billion of which it can finance \$1.8 billion, but must borrow \$3 billion, putting its debt-equity ratio under strain. QVC has a war chest of \$5 billion.

Martin Davis, Paramount chairman and chief executive, said: "We believe that the revised merger with Viacom represents superior long-term value to our stockholders."

But QVC's offer still has a slight edge. The paper portion of its bid is worth \$80.71 per Paramount share, against Viacom's \$80. Sumner Redstone, Viacom's chairman and controlling shareholder, said his revised offer reflects the value of business opportunities presented by the merging of his company with Paramount.

Some on Wall Street are still expecting a third bidder to emerge in the shape of one of the regional telephone companies. BellSouth has been most widely named.

Paramount shares jumped \$1.25 to \$78.875, while QVC, at \$54.625, and Viacom shares, at \$59.25, eased by a fraction.

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

FALLING



The stock market seems to expect the Chancellor to make a mess of things in his Budget next month
Anthony Harris, 26
Stock market, page 26

STALLED

The CBI's industrial trends survey today is expected to confirm doubts about the extent of recovery
Feature, page 27

IN THE AIR



What is the City making of the relationship between Tiny Rowland and Dieter Bock at Lomrho Pennington, page 25

GROUNDLED

Air France's capitulation to union pressure has united European moves towards competition
Page 24

Tiphook holders maul Montague

By Martin Waller

ROBERT Montague, head of the Tiphook trailer rental company, faced a barracking yesterday from shareholders who have seen the value of their investment plummet after three successive profits warnings this year.

An extraordinary meeting convened to grant an extension to the group's borrowing powers heard outspoken criticism of the Tiphook chairman, who has already been forced to cede some control of the company he built up — with the search for a chief executive from outside.

Mr Montague refused on legal advice to answer most shareholders' questions, and a number had to be intercepted by James Davis, a partner of Freshfields, Tiphook's lawyers, who insisted that questions be limited to technical matters surrounding the extension of borrowing powers.

The chairman faced strongest attack over the timing of the announcement that the borrowing extension would be needed and that the group which has debts of more than



Montague lawyer on hand

£1 billion, was in danger of breaching covenants. This came three weeks after the annual meeting, at which there was no mention of the further problems at Tiphook.

Mr Montague said that these, a result of the continuing slowdown of the world economy, only emerged after the meeting. But he was shouted down by one shareholder with a sharp "Be serious".

Pennington, page 25

Delors and Clarke clash on public spending plan

From George Brock in Luxembourg

EUROPEAN Commission finance ministers, led by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, yesterday resisted an appeal from Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, to use public spending to boost a weak recovery.

EC finance ministers were told optimistic forecasts for Germany's economy should mean European growth ought to pick up faster than expected. But the growth rate will not be enough to shrink the Continent's lengthening debt queues.

Mr Clarke led the resistance to M Delors' call for more concerted action and spending, saying it was not part of governments' task to spend to create demand in national economies. M Delors will report to an EC summit in Brussels this Friday and again in December on his plans for combating low growth and high unemployment throughout the EC. Mr Clarke said later he agreed with some of M Delors' ideas "and I think he agrees with some of mine".

German sources said M Delors was critical of national governments for failing to come up with their own schemes for relaunching growth. Gert Haller, Germany's junior finance minister, told the meeting Europe's unemployment could not be tackled if governments dodged the question of labour costs. He stressed the need for stable public finances.

Henning Christopherson, EC finance commissioner, said commission forecasts had been revised upwards after yesterday's publication of Germany's growth rate, which is improving faster than expected. If Germany's leading indicators were right in predicting growth of 1.5 per cent in 1994, he said, then the EC economies should expand by between 1.5 and 2 per cent next year. But Mr Christopherson and his colleagues have always stressed that only sustained growth rates of at least 3 per cent will make any impact on EC unemployment, now close to 18 million and heading

towards 20 million. Yesterday's meeting also gave a glimpse of the battles that may develop between Britain and other states over the development of the single currency.

EC leaders meet in Brussels on Friday to debate some unresolved arguments over the implementation of the treaty, which comes into force next Monday.

Ministers agreed seven pieces of EC legislation governing the monitoring and guiding the convergence of economies that will apply in the second phase of monetary union, starting next January. Some governments see these rules as an equivalent of the pan-European economic government that will be necessary to make a single currency work. At the other end of the scale, Britain accepts the discussion of broad targets encouraging economic rigour but dismisses any idea that the government's freedom of manoeuvre has been cut down.

German economy, page 24

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FT-SE 100 3184.8 -14.2	DOW JONES 3645.38 -3.92	Dm 2.4854 +0.0152	US \$ 1.4865 +0.0093	\$371.65 per oz.	BRENT CRUDE \$16.50 per barrel (Dec) 6.00 pm
Midday trading figure					

LONDON CLOSING PRICES MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 26, SHARE PRICES PAGE 29

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

The French climbdown has infuriated British carriers, which have been arguing strenuously for an end

ine strides towards privatisation. Yesterday, however, all that was in tatters as unions flaunted their new power with further threats of disrup-

now compounded by the reluctance of the French government to confront their labour problems head on.

EC states meet. The French, backed by the Belgians, Spanish, Portuguese and Greeks are certain to demand at

Air strike, page 9
Leading article, page 15

Air strike, page 9
Leading article, page 15

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

All the experts agree that the coming wage round in Germany will be crucial and difficult. The DIW bases its forecast on the assumption that wages will rise by only 2 per cent. Yet established as-



experts' opinion that any room for manoeuvre should be used to lower taxes and social payments to improve companies' competitiveness.

SHARES in BBA Group advanced 9p to 167p on news that Roberto Quarria, a former BTR director, has been appointed chief executive from next month of the engineering group, which serves the automotive, industrial and aviation markets. Mr Quarria, 44, succeeds John White, who was forced to stand down in August due to illness. Mr Quarria, who resigned from the board of BTR, was an executive director and chief executive of a number of the group's operations including the automotive, construction services, electronics, building and furniture and sports divisions.

Flextech will run satellite channels such as UK Gold, UK Living and Family Channel, currently marketed through the Sky network.

From Sunday 31st October Emirates Airline will depart from Terminal 3, Heathrow for Dubai twice daily at 13:45 and 20:45. Contact your local travel agent for details or phone Emirates reservations on 071-930 3711 or 061-447 9067. Bon voyage, voyage.



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☐ Employers are seriously underestimating the impact of family concerns on employees' willingness to relocate, accord-

Union Inte

By said course million The was for million shares had no cost per Austr and a decision here to Brazil been a Last line, a chief s because yesterday

□ A weekend of straight talking brings a sharp frost to Cheapside □ Extraordinary meeting for Tiphook shareholders

Feeding frenzy at Lonrho

□ The Monday good mornings exchanged between the indomitable Tiny Rowland and Dieter Bock at Lonrho's Cheapside HQ yesterday were, by all accounts, of a distinctly frosty nature.

Hardly surprising, after a deeply divisive weekend which, not necessarily by coincidence, came hard on the heels of three weeks of deeply divisive debate over the appointment of the company's first non-executive directors in 20 years.

One way or another, Bock's camp exerted maximum pressure on Rowland to raise the drawbridge; pressure that just happened to coincide with "investigative" tales of Rowland's supposed wish to buy out Bock, with a little bit of help from Colonel Gaddafi.

The degree to which Lonrho's board was split (pretty much down the middle) was leaked, as was the fact that Mr Rowland, 75, and his co-deputy chairman Paul Spicer, were both drawing six-figure pensions, in addition to their respective salaries.

Chairman René Leclézio was also reported to enjoy an hors d'oeuvre along with his entrée.

In the event, Rowland, fighting off the back foot, forced a compromise. Sir John Leahy, a former British Ambassador to South Africa and a former independent director of the Observer (recently sold by Lonrho

to The Guardian) joined Bock's chosen duo: Hanson's Peter Harper and Stephen Walls, chairman of Albert Fisher. Terry Wilkinson, managing director of Lonrho's South African operations, also joined the board in an executive capacity.

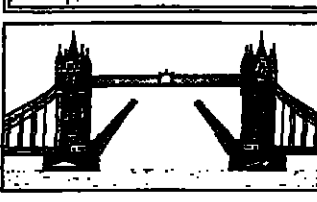
So divided were the indivisibles over the non-executive issue that Morgan Grenfell, Lonrho's merchant bankers, felt compelled to offer their good offices — City parlance for attempting to crush skulls together.

The compromise was finally hammered out on the eve of last Tuesday's board meeting but, if transparency was the name of the game, transparency had been achieved. The rumble between Rowland and Bock was dinner table gossip. Rowland's power balance — despite the compromise — was perceived to have shifted towards Bock, and, according to such gossip (stimulated by not a few artful editorials) Leclézio, Spicer and co-deputy chairman Robert Dunlop were all looking down the wrong end of a gun barrel.

Against this background, sharks were lowered in Harrods on Friday and, over the weekend, Rowland had his say, so to speak. It has been argued that, because someone pointed out to Mr Rowland that Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat had managed to shake hands, the light dawned and he suddenly felt inclined to follow suit. It has also been argued that, in view of the Bock rumble, Rowland had no wish to fight on two fronts. Rowland himself has acknowledged that Lonrho and House of Fraser's joint £50 million legal expenditure on their differences was a key factor — and so it almost certainly was. But so too was the time frame of the litigation against the Payeds.

The prospect was one of lengthy court hearings, conceivably followed by lengthy appeals, whatever the outcome. Never mind the £40 million expended by Lonrho over eight years; feel the width of what's to come. Nor should it be forgotten that vendettas — and peacemaking — are a way of life for Rowland. Questioned after last year's AGM about the controversial sale of a one-third stake in

PENNINGTON



Metropole Hotels for £177.5 million he remarked: "Always remember, yesterday's enemy is very often tomorrow's friend. Look at the USSR."

And, after exiting from Harrods' food hall on Friday, Rowland had a few choice phrases of his own for London's dinner tables, not least: "I am a fully paid up member of this country's Inland Revenue club. I have always paid my tax in this country. Mr Bock, however, doesn't own a single asset in his own name, except his bicycle — and perhaps his wife. "And, by sheer coincidence, a piece of "investigative" reporting elsewhere came up with the timely disclosure that Christian Norgren, a Swedish banker who

reached a \$3.5 million settlement with the SEC in 1991 without admitting or denying insider dealing allegations, just happens to be a close associate of Bock. As for talk of buying out Bock he informed The Times: "He has just paid me £50 million, and I am not going to give it back."

Frosty good mornings but, word has it, there was an incredible air of business as usual at Lonrho with both camps putting out the message that, with the score 15 all, perhaps it was time to cool it, at least for the time being. Market makers, who still fear the chance of a rights issue, cooled the share price, 2½p off at 128p.

Ducking the question

□ Robert Montague, currently — and that currently should be stressed — chairman and leading light at Tiphook, has been around long enough to learn a little about corporate governance. Furthermore, when

times were favourable and the business was on the up, he was never shy of a camera, a notebook or a microphone and never short of a comment.

All this makes the undignified scenes at Tiphook's extraordinary shareholders meeting yesterday all the more unacceptable. Mr Montague claimed he was gagged by his lawyers from giving investors who had backed his group the sort of information they should reasonably have before deciding whether to sanction a further increase in debt for his already heavily-borrowed business.

Questions, for example, on just how close to the new £1.3 billion ceiling the debts would climb and whether that ceiling might in due course again be exceeded were firmly rebuffed, as were queries on the presumably well-founded weekend reports that his salary and those of the board, in the past the subject of some acrimony, were to be halved.

Mr Montague should be reminded of two salient facts that he may have forgotten. One is that lawyers advise, they do not

command. The second is that shareholders' meetings are called, in every case, to allow those shareholders the right to ask any awkward questions they wish of those in whom they have entrusted their capital, and to have those questions answered. That is their function; what highly-paid lawyers and financial advisers think of the matter is immaterial.

Timing makes matters look even worse — on September 15, Tiphook's annual meeting heard no mention of possible breaches in banking covenants or the need to allow for even heavier borrowings. On October 7, the news was made public. It is barely credible, and certainly it was taken as wholly incredible by shareholders yesterday, that the situation deteriorated so sharply in just three weeks.

Shareholders might just as well know that Tiphook has now joined the long list of fast-growth businesses that have overstepped the mark and let the banks into the driving seat. The City is no longer interested, having largely sold out at a loss. A damaging law suit from the new American investors, once dividends dry up, looks on the cards.

The only upside could come with the intervention of a suitor with deep pockets, favourite for now being General Electric Capital.



Flight of fantasy: Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, left, gave children a helping hand as they boarded Dreamflight 93 at Heathrow yesterday, bound for Walt Disney World, Seaworld and the movie-making secrets of MGM and Universal studio complexes in Florida. Almost 200 seriously ill and handicapped children, aged between seven and 15, were the passengers on the seventh annual flight to Orlando, organised by Dreamflight, the airline staff charity. As the Boeing 747 took off, the children's eight-day holiday of their dreams got underway. Almost 1,400 children have enjoyed a holiday in America, courtesy of the charity, since the first trip took place in 1986.

Blacks Leisure sports a return to the black

BLACKS Leisure, the sports retailer and wholesaler, returned to profit thanks to a strong performance from its Blacks Camping and First Sport retail chains. A pre-tax loss of £8.2 million was transformed into a pre-tax profit of £638,000 for the six months to

August 28. Last year's figure was depressed by a £7.7 million exceptional charge on goodwill previously written off. Profit before tax and exceptional items on continuing operations rose 6 per cent from £213,000 to £226,000 on turnover up from £27.4 mil-

lion to £27.7 million. The bottom line was also boosted by an exceptional profit of £885,000 from the sale of the group's LA Gear distribution business. The interim dividend is held at 0.75p per share.

Tempus, page 27

Tough markets cloud interim advance by BET

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

A WARNING that margins were still under pressure and that trading conditions would remain difficult marked interim figures from BET, the industrial services conglomerate. The group reported its first half-way rise in pre-tax profits since 1989.

Shares in the company, which is almost through a three-year restructuring initiated by John Clark, the chief executive, slipped 8p to 128½p. Mr Clark's plan has reduced the number of businesses in the group, which takes in cleaning, security, plant hire and transport, from 180 to 69.

"Conditions in our markets are likely to remain tough for some time," Mr Clark said. "Despite the significant cost reductions that have been made, pressure on margins persisted across much of the group."

Pre-tax profits of £46.1 million in the half-year to September 25 contrasted with £36.6 million last time. The improvement was helped by lower interest payments, which fell by £5 million, to £3.2 million, as the group's borrowings virtually disappeared. Profit from continuing

BET has halved the interim dividend as profits from continuing operations slipped back. The business services company said that trading conditions remain tough

operations fell from £55.9 million to £50.5 million, while losses from discontinued businesses dipped sharply, from £11.1 million to £1.2 million.

Operating profits from cleaning services virtually halved, from £10.4 million to £5.4 million, after serious problems in the United States, particularly in New York. Large numbers of vacant office buildings had severely eroded work available, while the number of companies in that market remained the same, Mr Clark said. Some of BET's competitors had responded by cutting their prices.

In textile services, turnover fell but margins improved, leaving operating profits £5.3 million ahead at £18.9 million.

The depressed state of the construction industry left plant services behind at £15.4 million, against £23.8 million last time, but a flat performance by distribution services, which made operating profits of £14 million, masked

a sharp improvement; the figure including a £7 million write-off because of a change in depreciation policy.

The interim dividend is halved to 1p. But Mr Clark said the intention was to re-establish the practice of making the final dividend larger than the interim. Last time, a final of 1.25p was paid.

Mr Clark joined the company in April 1991, at the start of the recovery drive, when debt stood at £1 billion. That has been wiped out, Mr Clark said; funds were available for investment to achieve growth. But the company, which has made one or two modest purchases recently, would not return to the acquisition path; it would concentrate instead on organic growth.

"Investment to generate organic growth in our best businesses, to add innovative new services and to make infilling acquisitions, is starting to increase," he said.

Tempus, page 27

Union International at £7m

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

UNION International, the main trading vehicle of the Vestey Group of Companies, one of Britain's biggest private groups, revealed that lower interest charges fuelled an 11 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £7 million.

However, at the operating level profits came back from £22.2 million to £17.5 million, on sales down to £494 million (£584.3 million), partly due to difficult trading in the UK for Dewhurst and British Beef.

Terry Robinson, chief executive of Union International, said net debts had continued to fall and last month were about £90 million lower than the previous September. He

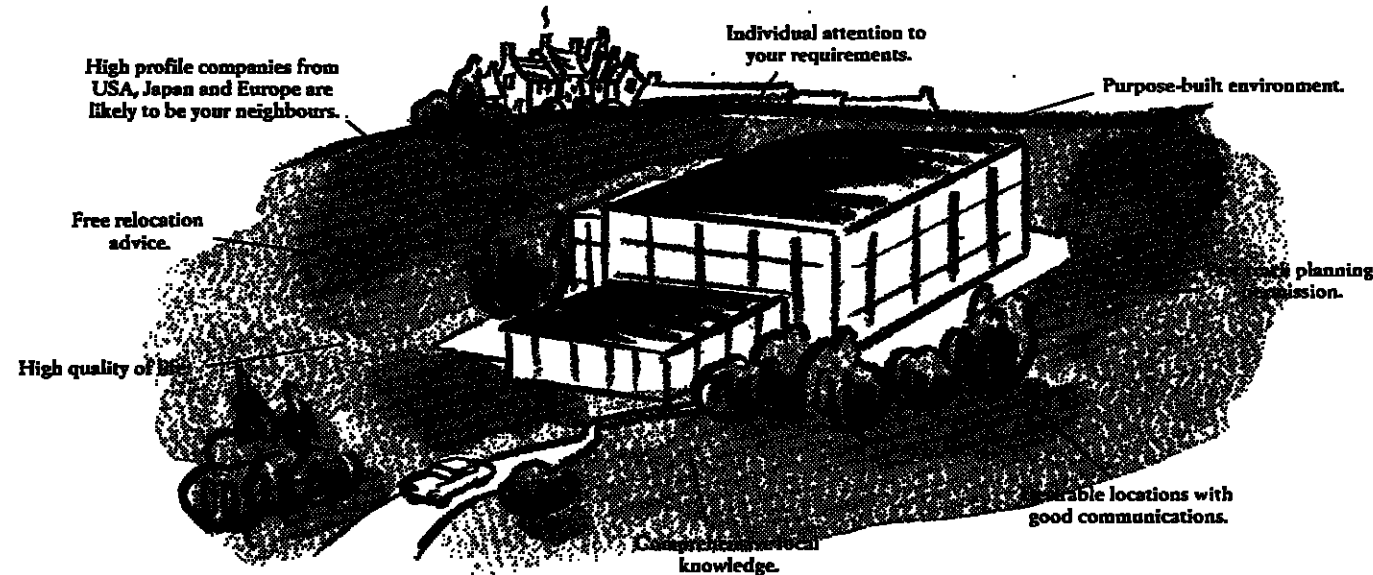
said the company was on course for debts of about £100 million at the end of 1993.

The fall in interest charges was from £17.1 million to £11.5 million. Since last reporting to shareholders, Union said it had completed further significant property sales in the UK, Australia and New Zealand, and sold two Mercedes car dealerships and a contract hire business. The sale of the Brazilian metalworks had also been completed.

Last month Sir John Collins, formerly chairman and chief executive of Shell UK, became chief executive of the Vestey Group of Companies. His appointment came 21

months after Lord Vestey and Edmund Vestey, his cousin, recruited Mr Robinson, a former director of Lonrho, with a perceived brief to stave off the threat of administration at Union.

The latter had debts of about £350 million at the time, and was seen as being in the middle of a trading crisis. After an extensive rationalisation, Union made 1992 pre-tax profits of £30.8 million, compared with the previous year's loss of £20.5 million. In the latest results, Union said its greatest regional strength had been in Australia, with good progress in the Far East, United States and Canada.



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Measuring the confidence factor on road to recovery

The CBI industrial trends survey today is expected to confirm that the economic revival is patchy and fragile. Philip Bassett reports

For the last time before the Budget, business leaders and government ministers will today get a sense of how far industry has emerged from recession when the Confederation of British Industry publishes figures that are expected to confirm that economic recovery remains both patchy and fragile.

The CBI's widely regarded quarterly industrial trends survey is likely to support recent results from competitors' surveys, which are casting doubt about the extent to which recovery is genuine and generally under way.

Yet ministers have still been able to garner some comfort from the quarterly outpourings of the industry-wide survey machines because most are reporting business confidence at high levels, though the CBI's own more sceptical optimism indicator is likely today to be a good deal flatter than some of its rivals' confidence figures.

So with poor output, trade and other figures, with unemployment still hovering close to 3 million, is industry confident about the recovery? Is business optimistic about the end of the recession? Inevitably, it depends what industry means about "confidence". As one business organisation leader said: "I'm not sure what 'confidence' actually means. It's the weakest indicator in our survey. Frankly, sometimes it seems to me that we only have it as a question because all the others do."

Christopher Stewart-Smith, president of the British Chambers of Commerce, says the recovery is "faltering daily", although the chambers' survey this quarter puts business confidence at its highest level since 1989. Richard Brown, deputy director-general, says that business confidence, however imprecise, is vital: "If companies are not confident, they won't invest and they won't employ — so it's a crucial ingredient in the mix of recovery."

The government agrees. As one of five components — the principal one — of its regular cyclical indicators, the Central Statistical Office uses the CBI's optimism figures to give a longer leading view of turning points in whole economy activity. So-called confidence figures can act as advance warning signals about the economy, since they are published about 11 weeks or so before the relevant official statistics on gross domestic product. The Treasury said: "The trend in CBI business optimism, seasonally adjusted, has been a reasonably good predictor of annual growth in non-oil GDP two to four quarters ahead."

Charting the two together suggests that is broadly right — that industry's "confidence" does sense early the way the wind of the economy will be blowing, though the CBI's optimism balance figure understates the economic improvement after the early eighties' recession and the miners' strike, and was too confident about the then-Chancellor Norman Lamont's green shoots in this downturn. As a Treasury analysis diplomatically puts it now: "The relationship went sharply awry in autumn 1991, when a surge in optimism was not subsequently associated with a corresponding pick-up in non-oil GDP growth." In other words, the green shoots did not sprout.

"That's the trouble with 'confidence'," one business leader said. "It's important, and ministers like it — or at least, they like it when it's going their way — but it's wayward, it blows about too much." Or as one large technological company chief executive put it: "Confidence doesn't mean anything. It just means what you want it to mean. It's just how you're feeling that day."

That view is reinforced when some of the competing measures are set against each other. Graphing the CBI's optimism and the chambers' confidence indicators during this recession, for instance, gives a markedly different picture. Though the broad trend of both as measures of industrial activity is similar — both, for example, saw the precipice industry tipped over three years ago, before the government's figures did, but both equally were misled by the green shoots non-recovery — the gap between the two is marked, with the CBI notably more pessimistic. Since the start of the recession, the chambers has never been optimistic, never shown a negative figure on confidence. Out of the 14 similar quarters, the CBI's data has shown nine negative quarters. Anecdotal evidence of how business has fared in the recession tends to bear out the CBI's caution, and subsequent official output figures have confirmed it — showing falls in seven quarters over the period.

Despite such close tracking, many industrialists remain sceptical. "Confidence indicators are just wish lists," one technology director said. Even more dismissively, a finance director said of filling in the surveys at a former job: "I didn't have a clue about it. I just



Business may be recovering, but are employers confident? Ann Robinson and Douglas McWilliams find out

used to put what I'd read in the paper, and it's no different now." Some business surveys claim to combat this. Ann Robinson, policy head at the Institute of Directors, rebuts the charges made against the institute's bi-monthly report that its sample base is too small to be representative by stressing the corporate seniority claimed for those who actually answer the questions, drawing upon the institute's individual director membership in the way that other surveys neither can nor do. Andrew Sentance, the CBI's economics director and one of Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's seven wise men on the economy, admits to being "much more impressed" by the CBI's "hard" indicators on output and orders — especially the more accurate retrospective figures, rather than forward estimates — than by the more nebulous figures on optimism.

Douglas McWilliams, of the independent Centre for Economics and Business Research, says that as an indicator, business confidence is "bad in that it can be influenced by a lot of short-term things" such as elections, strikes, and political uncertainty, and his own research has pointed to a high seasonal factor too, with the industrial slump tending to surge in the spring and slump in the autumn.

In fact, internal CBI work suggests its own optimism index is most influenced by companies' own demand or orders, with 97 per cent of those surveyed listing this as the most important factor when asked, followed by interest rates, cited by about half. Accurately interpreting such complicated data can be difficult, particularly among ministers eager for good economic news about the recovery. Today's CBI optimism figure technically measures not the level of business confidence but the change in that level over the previous four months. CBI officials acknowledge privately that many of their survey respondents tend to ignore that distinction, and report on the level of confidence rather than the change; but, even so, a flatter confidence figure, as expected today, could mean optimism remaining about the same, rather than showing a downward turn.

Such economic opacity — the equivalent of a car flashing its headlights at an oncoming vehicle: does it mean to say stop where you are, or the precise opposite of that — is a graphic illustration of the difficulties associated with trying to get a measurable handle on something so protean as confidence.

Yet however unsatisfactory it may be as a statistical concept, business leaders and the government are acutely aware of its public importance, including how it plays in the media. As the Chancellor gets down to the final few weeks of his Budget preparations, he knows what is at stake from his measures: if the fragile flower of confidence is damaged, then the economy cannot and will not grow.

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TEMPUS Accumulator BET

JOHN Clark, BET's chief executive, has not won many friends in the City, while he has chopped away at the tangled mass of unrelated subsidiaries and unprofitable borrowings he inherited. The group has yet to live down last year's disastrous rights issue or its succession of dividend cuts, which continued yesterday, even though earnings have begun to recover.

But three small acquisitions of security companies in the past six months prove that the business service group's long and painful convalescence is almost over. The group should have net cash by the end of March, while a stream of disposals and mergers have reduced the once confusing mass of 180 subsidiaries by almost two-thirds. An increase in the depreciation charges in the transport division, which cut operating profits in the half-year by £7 million, is one last buff in the

clean-up. Mr Clark must now drive BET's remaining businesses forward, but faces two main obstacles. Many operations, like cleaning services, are personnel intensive, so they are exposed to price competition from low-cost independent operators. To overcome this, he is planning a renewed marketing drive next year. The other problem is that not all the businesses are market leaders, hence the reawakened appetite for acquisitions.

The improvement in the group's cash position, together with the marketing drive, should give earnings the necessary momentum. BET is still an uncomfortable agglomeration of unrelated service businesses, and Mr Clark makes little attempt to deny it. But if his new initiatives continue to improve the bottom line, the City should become more forgiving about its shortcomings.

Blacks Leisure

A YEAR ago, critics of Blacks Leisure were advising the company to get out of its loss-making sports retail business. Now it is the only part of the group making money, after the distribution division plunged into the red. Nevertheless, it still looks as though Blacks somewhat volatile track record is about to enter a calmer stage.

Much of this is due to the market, which, although still unsettled, is in better shape than a year ago. Both Blacks' retailing and wholesaling businesses suffered from stock-dumping by the big sports manufacturers, such as Nike and Reebok, which dragged down margins. This situation has now stabilised, although the market is still intensely competitive.

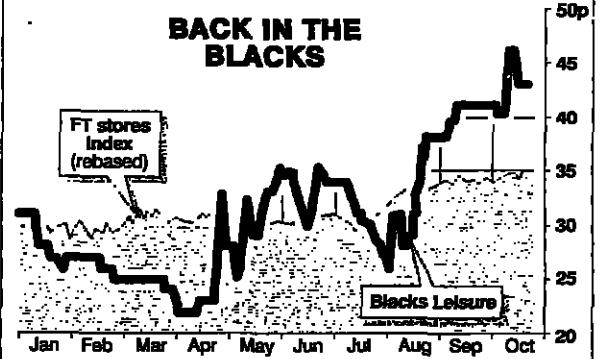
The damage that mistakes in this sector can cause is evident from Fila, which

failed to identify the trend towards outdoor shoes, leaving Blacks with products it could not sell. Fortunately for the group's bottom line, this has been rectified and the second half looks more promising, with a good level of forward orders.

The retail division also looks in good shape. Few other retailers can boast all-time 20 per cent growth in

like-for-like sales, and profits will be further enhanced by the savings from the installation of EPOS at the start of next year.

Although profits should now start to move ahead, albeit from a low base, history suggests the shares are not without their risks. But since the dividend appears relatively safe, the real attraction is the 7 per cent yield.



Royal Bank of Scotland

ACQUISITIONS are rare events among British banks in the 1990s, so it is startling to see the Royal Bank of Scotland wrapping up its third in New England in five months. The \$144 million purchase of Newcourt Bancorp by Citizens Financial, the Royal Bank's American subsidiary, makes the bank the fifth largest in New England.

Shareholders may feel a tinge of concern at the speed of the bank's expansion. Dr George Mathewson, chief executive, has set a target that a tenth of the group's earnings should come from America, and seems determined to achieve it in record time. Goals such as these brought many banks to their knees in the Eighties.

The cost of the Royal Bank's acquisitions also seems to be rising rapidly. Citizens paid little more than net asset value for Plymouth Five Cent Savings Bank just over a year ago. Now it is paying 1.6 times book value for Newcourt. Admittedly, this now appears the going rate for small New England banks and the figure

is cheaper than it looks since Newcourt's \$15 million debt portfolio is heavily overvalued.

The Royal Bank must move at this speed: the New England banking market is consolidating so quickly that it cannot afford to be a spectator or it will be left as a minor bank in a relative backwater. Citizens has demonstrated a talent to absorb previous acquisitions and should, for now, be given the benefit of the doubt. But the Royal Bank cannot afford to pay much higher premiums for future acquisitions, however pressing its desire to meet its earnings target.

Henderson

THE joint venture between Henderson Administration's property management arm and Real Estate Strategy, a small advisory boutique in Reading, Berkshire, is an intriguing attempt to inject some of the sophisticated investment techniques that have developed in the bond and equity markets into the still-arid world of property. RES may only be three years old, but it offers a novel service: it carries out top-down

risk/reward analysis of institutional investors' property portfolios — equivalent to the quantitative techniques that fund managers have been applying to other assets for a decade or more.

This type of approach has its limitations when applied to property. But such treatment should still help correct imbalances in institutional portfolios, when property investment is becoming fashionable again. When combined with Henderson's traditional property management services, it means that the joint venture can offer institutions a full discretionary management service with annual fees of about 0.5 to 0.75 per cent — similar to those of other asset classes.

The new service could be an important selling point for Henderson, when it and other medium-sized fund managers are being squeezed by larger competitors and the small, low-cost niche firms. While institutional fund management services are becoming increasingly indistinguishable from quarterly performance statistics, Henderson needs such innovations to justify its place in the market.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Plea for those depending on dividends for income

From Ms Elizabeth Purdy
Sir, In his excellent letter outlining the side effects of enhanced scrip dividends, Christopher Daws fails to mention the plight of those who depend on dividend income to live. The milkman and butcher cannot be paid in watered-down shares.

This again reduces the value of the shares of those who did not increase their holding with the scrip shares, compared with those who were in the fortunate position to be able to

forgo the original dividend. Yours faithfully, ELIZABETH PURDY, Sparrow Green House, Aylsham, Norfolk.

Treasury's economic policy is hard to fathom

From Mr C. T. Ross
Sir, Few economists ever agree about future actions but can anyone explain current Treasury policy? Inflation is about 1 per cent — 2 per cent. Interest rates are 6 per cent, so the real rate is 4 per cent or more. This is conventionally appropriate to calm down an economy that is overheating!

I have not been able to work out what the Treasury thought it was trying to achieve when it pushed us into the recent unforced recession, but can anyone suggest what benefits the Treasury now thinks it might be achieving by holding back the current very weak recovery so firmly? Yours faithfully, C. T. ROSS, Mulberry House, 8 Mount Road, Lansdown, Bath.

Keeping track of sponsorship

AYRTON Senna's display of high spirits after winning the Japanese grand prix — he punched Eddie Irvine, the new Jordan driver, in a post-race dispute — will have been watched with clenched teeth by Sipko Huismans, South African-born chief executive of Courtalds, the international chemical materials group, who flew to Japan on Friday to kick off a two-week tour of the Asia-Pacific region. Courtalds spends a tidy sum sponsoring McLaren, and the fiery Brazilian's helmet is adorned with a prominent advertisement for Tencel, the Courtalds wonder fibre that is used in \$300-a-piece abrasion-resistant jeans, among other things. Huismans, who hails from Stellenbosch in the heart of the Cape wine district, may not have been too fazed by the display of racing egos. Fanatically keen on cars, yachts and aircraft, Huismans has been known to crawl around inside 747 wings on the Boeing assembly line near Seattle — his company makes sealants used in their construction — and has a 40-foot

Paper chase

TECHNOLOGY has its pitfalls, especially when it comes to keeping secrets in a global bank, as the PR department of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank has learnt to its embarrassment. The team in London was yesterday busily preparing the press release for the third-quarter figures from the American subsidiary, due to be released today, but had to fax it to Hong Kong for final

approval. Imagine the press officer's dismay when a slip of her fingers on the automatic fax machine re-routed the confidential document to most of the UK's national newspapers. Desperate phone calls followed in an attempt to stop the price-sensitive figures being published a day early. The Times needless to say, obliged the bank, and Marine's figures should appear, as planned, in tomorrow's paper.

Moving on

WHAT'S on the menu? Bill Myers, former food retailing analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite Institutional Brokers, is joining Yamaichi International (Europe) as head of UK & European equity research. Myers, who joined later next month, will be given the task of extending Yamaichi's sector coverage over the next three to five years, reporting to John Shepperd, chief economist. Bruce Evers, formerly of Schroder Securities, joins on November 8 to cover the oil and gas sectors. On this theme, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, which is losing most of its oil team to UBS — oil trader Andy Lewis is going to NatWest Markets — has appointed

Getting a Buzz

MOSS BROS. the upmarket gentlemen's outfitters that reported a 77 per cent rise in profits, has obviously attracted a host of new customers lately. One such newcomer is Buzz Aldrin, the second man on the moon after Neil Armstrong, who was spotted recently in the elegant surroundings of Beale & Inman, Moss Bros's Bond Street store, a one-time haunt of Charles Dickens. Aldrin, clearly impressed, wrote in the visitors' book: "Over the moon with your service."

Spirited company

CRABBLE'S Green Ginger Wine, that ancient Scottish brew, has been sold by United Distillers to Macdonald Martin Distilleries, producer of Glenmorangie malt whisky, for an undisclosed sum. Macdonald, like Crabble's, is based in Leith — keeping alive a tradition which dates back to 1801. Crabble's biggest claim to fame is as the inspiration

Rocking on

BARCLAYS Bank's uphill struggle to build a presence in France is having mixed success. The good news is that last year's £98 million loss is likely to give way to break-even by the end of 1994. Less encouraging is the apparent indifference of the French to the Barclays name, even though, to be fair, the bank is not out to capture the mass market. Asked in a snap poll near the Paris Bourse what Barclays was, one respondent said it was a bank, another thought it was a credit card company, and another assumed it was connected with that old rock group, Barclay James Harvest. Remember them?

Advertisement in the North Yorkshire Advertiser: "Yorkshire company requires part-time office person for book-keeping, wages and general accounting. Ability to play electric guitar an advantage."

JON ASHWORTH

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Trident Voyager moored at Southampton.

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"Virtual unreality"

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JON ASHWORTH

Conventional wisdom would have us believe

there's no place for sentiment in business. At Cross, since 1946, after they are given it's not for making that each one we are why on earth not? Landmarks in a career should be acknowledged. A well-earned place of appreciation in the form of a Cross serving instrument makes for an excellent working relationship. And, we hardly need add, better business as a result.

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carries a lifetime guarantee. If you would like more information, please telephone our Business Unit Division on 0582 422794 or Fax 0582 450697/2941. A.T. Cross (UK) Limited, Concord House, Concord Street, Luton, Beds LU2 0JD

JAMES WARDE

WHY THE CHAIRMAN NEVER FORGETS THE DAY HE REACHED HIS FIRST SALES TARGET.

Prices close above their worst

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 18. Dealings end October 29. Settlement day November 1. Settlement day November 8. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
430	425	Bank of Montreal	427	-2	11.5	34
170	165	Bank of Nova Scotia	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bank of Toronto	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bank of Victoria	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bank of Western	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bank of Montreal	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bank of Nova Scotia	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bank of Toronto	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bank of Victoria	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bank of Western	167	-5	11.5	17

BREWERIES

1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
430	425	Beck's	427	-2	11.5	34
170	165	Carling	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Labatt	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Miller	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Pabst	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Beck's	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Carling	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Labatt	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Miller	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Pabst	167	-5	11.5	17

BUILDING, ROADS

1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
430	425	Alcan	427	-2	11.5	34
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Alcan	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17

ELECTRICALS

1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
430	425	Alcan	427	-2	11.5	34
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Alcan	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17

BUSINESS SERVICES

1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
430	425	Alcan	427	-2	11.5	34
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Alcan	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17

FINANCE, LAND

1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
430	425	Alcan	427	-2	11.5	34
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Alcan	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
430	425	Alcan	427	-2	11.5	34
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Alcan	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17

Prices close above their worst

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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
430	425	Alcan	427	-2	11.5	34
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Alcan	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17

FOODS

1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
430	425	Alcan	427	-2	11.5	34
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Alcan	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17

INSURANCE

1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
430	425	Alcan	427	-2	11.5	34
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Alcan	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17

HOTELS, CATERERS

1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
430	425	Alcan	427	-2	11.5	34
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Alcan	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17

INDUSTRIALS

1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
430	425	Alcan	427	-2	11.5	34
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Alcan	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
430	425	Alcan	427	-2	11.5	34
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Alcan	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17

BRITISH FUNDS

1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
430	425	Alcan	427	-2	11.5	34
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Alcan	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
430	425	Alcan	427	-2	11.5	34
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Alcan	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
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PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG

1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
430	425	Alcan	427	-2	11.5	34
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
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170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Imperial Oil	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17

LEISURE

LEISURE						
1993 High	1993 Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
455	395	Alcan	454	-1	7.2	28 1/2
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
376	364	Imperial Oil	371	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Alcan	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Bell	167	-5	11.5	17
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170	165	Manitoba Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
170	165	Ontario Hydro	167	-5	11.5	17
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ROCK page 32
Jackson Browne, back
on stage in London
with a vintage collection
of confessional songs

ARTS

CINEMA page 33

The genius of silent-film
comic Charley Chase is
rediscovered at the
Pordenone Festival



Malibu's slice of antiquity

As the Getty drawings go on show in London, Marcus Binney visits the imitation Roman villa that houses the Getty Museum

The Getty Museum opened in 1974 to a chorus of derision. For \$16 million, said the critics, J. Paul Getty should have bought a distinguished modern building that advanced the art of architecture, not one that set it back 2,000 years.

Getty had other ideas. He wanted neither "a tinted glass and stainless steel monstrosity" nor "one of those concrete bunker-type structures that are the fad among museum architects". Instead, he saw himself in the tradition of a line of American millionaires who had installed their collections in great houses and palazzi — whether Venetian, like Isabella Stewart Gardner in Boston, French like Henry Clay Frick in New York, or Spanish like William Randolph Hearst at St Simeon.

Getty was also clearly influenced by another great oil magnate, John D. Rockefeller Jr, who had sponsored a spectacular series of historical reconstructions, including colonial Williamsburg, the Cloisters overlooking the Hudson, and the Stoa of Attalos in the Agora at Athens.

The dynastic intention of all these places was never more strongly expressed than by John Ringling of circus fame. He established the great museum at Sarasota in Florida centred on his pioneering collection of Baroque paintings. In his will he stipulated that "the museum shall always be known as The John and Mabel Ringling Museum of Art without power in anyone to change such name".

When Getty first decided to bring back his collections from England, his plan was to add a wing to his existing ranch, which had been open on a limited basis. His next scheme was for a building entirely faced in white marble, containing replicas of rooms from Sutton Place, his Tudor house in Surrey.

The idea of a faithful reconstruction of an ancient Roman villa had its origins far back. Getty had first visited Pompeii, Herculaneum and the Naples Museum in 1912, and became fascinated with the story of the Villa of the Papyri, which may have belonged to Lucius Calpurnius Piso, father-in-law of Julius Caesar.

In 1955 Getty published a novella called *A Journey from Corinth*, telling the story of Glaucus, a young architect who goes to work for Piso. Getty's sketch of Piso has more than a touch of himself. "One of the richest men in Italy... he left Rome, bought some 200 acres of land on the Bay of Naples adjoining the village of Herculaneum, and in recent years occupied his time building this great villa."

Piso's advice to Glaucus is what Getty would expect of his own architects. "If you understand that I mean to have my own way in landscaping, and you wish to act as my assistant and further my efforts



Malibu's J. Paul Getty Museum: an "educated guess of what might have been" in Herculaneum

instead of trying to thwart them, you and I should get along well."

Herculaneum, like Pompeii, had been buried in ash and lava when Vesuvius erupted in AD79 — but much deeper. As a result, it had been little robbed in ancient times and the site was forgotten until 1711 when a peasant deepening his well found fragments of marble.

Excavations began in earnest when complete statues began to emerge. Charles III, the Spanish Bourbon king, was riveted by the thought of ancient treasure and tunnels were dug in all directions with little regard for archaeology. Discovery of the Villa of the Papyri came when digging revealed an elaborate circular marble floor, a copy of which is incorporated in the Getty Museum in the so-called Temple of Herakles (where Getty placed his favourite possession, the Lansdowne Herakles statue).

The villa took its name from the discovery of more than 2,000 badly charred scrolls. So delicate was the work of unrolling and deciphering them that even today only half have

been read. Hopes that the library would yield long-lost texts of Roman authors were dashed — most are texts by a single minor Greek philosopher. But Getty Museum scholars point out that as it was the custom to keep Greek and Latin libraries separate, a second cache may yet emerge.

Getty's architects were the Los Angeles firm of Langdon and Wilson. But the initial adaptation of the ancient villa plan was made by an English architect, Stephen Garrett, who later became deputy director of the museum. And much of the design was the work of the archaeologist Norman Neuerburg.

Neuerburg would naturally have liked to have carried out a new excavation in Herculaneum. But Getty, perhaps astutely, anticipated that this would be like digging the Suez Canal. He opted, says Neuerburg, "for an educated guess of what it might have been".

Sources and precedents were found for virtually every element of the design in other ancient Roman buildings, though Neuerburg adds that "in more than a few cases it was necessary to make a decision first and find the source afterwards". Getty's orders were that the design and construction should proceed simultaneously. "The result was that concrete pouring would often be held up while a drawing arrived," Neuerburg says. However, Getty's determination ensured that the museum was open within four years.

The original villa, dating from the second century BC, had been laid out round an atrium or columned courtyard, then extended by a vast colonnade enclosing a garden. The Malibu site was far steeper, and the initial design had the colonnades stepped down three times towards the sea. Neuerburg argued this was not a Roman solution and suggested instead the single level terrace with a car park beneath that so amazes visitors today.

Getty approved the extensive use of bronze reproductions of statues found at Herculaneum, remarking caustically: "The ancient pieces were probably copies anyway." These were done by a firm in Naples which still had moulds taken from the originals.

The finest aspect of the interiors is the inlaid marble of walls and floors. Getty secured the services of a firm in Rome, Ditta Medici, which did most of the restoration work for the Vatican and had an extensive supply of ancient marbles. Ultimately the whole building has the feel of a very careful recreation by museum curators and historians, rather than the impress of a patron: perfect, but just a little cold, as if its creation had been directed by remote control. As indeed it was — for Getty never came back to Malibu.

DRAWING OF THE DAY

The Royal Academy's exhibition of drawings from the J. Paul Getty Museum, supported by The Times, opens on Saturday. Each day for the next fortnight, Richard Cork will discuss a masterpiece from the Getty drawings collection. Today: *Nude Woman with a Snake* (as Cleopatra) by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669)



We can easily imagine a woman posing for this drawing (c.1637) in Rembrandt's Amsterdam studio. Its earthy directness, defined with swift and confident strokes of warm red chalk, suggests that he studied this figure from life. No attempt is made to disguise her distended belly, or the bulge in her right thigh. This is a frankly unidealised nude, homely rather than conventionally beautiful. But she does possess sensual power. Rembrandt relishes the amplitude of her fleshy body, using white chalk to heighten the contrast between areas of luminosity and deep shadow. Her navel is modelled with great vigour, and the fingers clasping her breast delight in showing off the woman's fecundity.

But her head-dress, and the bunched drapery slung so casually from her arm, carry a more exotic charge. Together with the snake trailing round her leg, they indicate that Rembrandt had Cleopatra in mind. They also suggest that he used the drawing as a preparation for his etching of Eve. Whatever the truth, this marvellously assured and humane study stands in its own right as an impressive example of Rembrandt's deceptively relaxed draughtsmanship.

FESTIVAL: 18th-century Bohemian rarities

Underscoring the dramatic point

Mozart's admiration for Jiri Benda's two melodramas dating from 1775, *Ariadne auf Naxos* and *Medea*, is well known. He too experimented with the form — speech alternating with, or accompanied by, music — in *Zaide*, and even planned a full-length *Semiramide*. Significantly, the former remained uncompleted, and the latter was never started. Composers have used *melodrama* ever since, from Beethoven and Weber to Strauss and Britten, but only for isolated episodes in their operas. The full-length *melodrama* never caught on, though the form took on a new lease of life in Hollywood and survives on television.

But last Friday's performance of Benda's *Medea* by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment — newly appointed associate orchestra on the South Bank — as part of the current Czech Festival showed just how effective *melodrama* can be. *Medea* is anyway a much more powerful piece than the earlier *Ariadne*, staged by the OAE in 1991 (the story-line alone guarantees that).

The musical gestures illustrating the spoken lines that they separate are built into a quasi-motivic structure to heighten the drama, and the action moves forward more smoothly, more inexorably. There are many arresting ideas: the off-stage wind band playing for Jason's second wedding, used in playful counterpoint to the main orchestra; the solo violin insinuating the idea of infanticide into Medea's mind, and returning

Medea
Queen Elizabeth Hall

when she initially rejects it: the carefully cued pair of thunderbolts; the creepy pizzicato arpeggios after the murders.

Harriet Walter judged her declamation of the title role perfectly. This was big, unapologetic stuff, but properly controlled; she nibbled the scenery rather than chewed it, and in Richard Luckett's translation it worked. John Abulafia's simple production was equally controlled, and he handled the protagonist's little scene with her children with considerable tact — this is a moment we miss in Cherubini's full-scale operatic setting. The conductor Ivan Fischer welded the elements into a coherent whole and secured natural forward momentum, a tall order skilfully filled. The OAE's playing was ideally colourful.

Medea lasts 45 minutes, probably the maximum length for a successful *melodrama*. The first half was devoted to Kozeluch's antebellum G-minor Symphony of 1781, and Krommer's E-flat Clarinet Concerto of 1803, a splendidly militaristic piece played with great gusto by Antony Pay. The OAE found just the right, subtly different sound world for each, and the smiles of delight on the players' faces in the Krommer found an answering grin of contentment in at least one member of the audience. Pure pleasure!

RODNEY MILNES



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Echoes in the wells of silence

The Pordenone film festival recently paid its 12th annual tribute to the pre-talkie era. Geoff Brown was there

You could not improve on the Maori name for the New Zealand Film Archive. Translated back into English, it means Guardians of the Treasures of Shining Light. The other week, we sat in the dark watching shining light for eight long days: international scholars, critics, enthusiasts, collectors, gathered once more at Pordenone, in northern Italy, for the 12th edition of the annual miracle, Il Giornate del Cinema Muto, entirely devoted to silent film.

The treasures, culled from archives and repositories the world over, ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous. We saw one tantalising reel of *The Divine Woman*, a Garbo film once thought lost forever; we laughed ourselves silly at Charley Chase, neglected master of two-reel comedies. We encountered Rex Ingram, maverick director of *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, and early features from Australia.

We also saw dog shows, beauty contests, a sandwich on legs, and a hick mistaking a telephone box for a lavatory in *The Wrong Door*, a hideously coarse jape from 1905.

In some respects, this year's event was more miraculous than ever. Italy's political and economic turmoil produced severe funding cuts, yet the festival still materialised. The Cinema Verdi, due for redevelopment and closed since January, opened its doors one last time. Natio tropics, primed for service in Bosnia, occupied many of the town's hotel rooms, yet space was still found for Pordenone's guests in private homes, nearby villages, even a religious retreat. No one can guess what the situation will be next year, although the festival is far too important to disappear without a fight.

The main retrospective focused on the year 1913. This was not picked at random: 1913 saw the first Hollywood feature, *The Squaw Man*, while European film-makers made major artistic strides. The

fantasy pioneer Georges Méliès ceased production; Charlie Chaplin signed his first contract with Mack Sennett, and the Biograph Company finally revealed the names of its players. A new age, and an industry, was dawning.

The Pordenone selectors rounded up films of real quality, from Stellan Rye's atmospheric fantasy



Charley Chase: forgotten genius of silent comedy

Der Student von Prag and Léonce Perret's *L'Enfant de Paris*, an adventurously photographed, serial-like tale of a child's kidnapping and rescue, to Victor Sjöström's heart-breaking *Ingeborg Holm*, a hard luck story of great simplicity and realistic detail.

Yet we reached these pearls after wading past quite a few swine-gauche films from Britain, one-reel oddities that shed little light on the way cinema was heading. Several key titles were also absent, from Britain's own *Hamlet* and *East Lynne* to *The Squaw Man* itself. This was not a particularly well-managed section.

There were no complaints about

the centenary tribute to Chase (1893-1940), a dapper comedian beloved of the cognoscenti but still little-known to wider audiences. One reason is the limited availability of prints: if Chase's 1920s work was marketed as well as the comedies of Chaplin, Buster Keaton or Harold Lloyd, he would be reckoned high among American cinema's funniest, subtlest and least archaic clowns.

Tall, well-groomed, with a little moustache, Chase generally played young go-getters with more pep than brains, tripped up by jealous wives, attractive women, leaping dogs, mistaken identities and other weapons in the gag-writers' arsenal. The gags, though, are never hurled at the audience; they come neatly tied to character and situation.

The sense of timing is exquisite. Chase had experience directing himself, although he stayed in front of the camera for the best of his shorts and let Hal Roach's rising talent Leo McCarey take charge. In lunatic films like *What Price Goofy?*, *The Caretaker's Daughter* and *Limousine Love*, bathroom doors fly open and shut; people slip into multiple masquerades; there are negliges to be hidden, clothes to be swapped; all undertaken with breathtaking speed and elegance. These films could make even King Lear laugh.

The festival's other hundredth birthday boy was Rex Ingram, a silent director of grand pictorial gifts who never found his feet in the talkies: he made his last film in 1932, although he lived until 1950. Pordenone's birthday party proved a mixed blessing: once-highly regarded spectacles like *Scarface* and *The Prisoner of Zenda* appeared top-heavy, weighed down by their sets, while *The Garden of Allah* (remade in the 1930s with Marlene Dietrich) now looks like mawkish codswallop.

Yet, at his best, in *Mare Nostrum*, the horror romp *The Magician*, and what remains of *The*



Barbara LaMarr looking appropriately vampish in *The Prisoner of Zenda* (1922), directed by Rex Ingram, born 100 years ago this year

Arab. Ingram stages the action with dazzling finesse, and creates images that burn in the mind.

His was a strong, bizarre personality. Born in Dublin, a sculpture student in America, Ingram became Metro Pictures' golden-haired boy with the *Four Horsemen* (screened at Pordenone with Carl Davis's effective new score). But he was too much the sophisticated and maverick to stay put. He built his own studio in Nice, and found a home for his imagination in the sands of North Africa and Arab culture. He was fascinated by hunchbacks and dwarfs, and put them into every film. His films equally celebrate the cool physical beauty of Alice Terry

(his wife and perennial heroine) and the smouldering looks of Ramon Novarro, the most endearing Latin lover to follow in Valentino's wake.

Despite the disappointments, Ingram's birthday party was well worth attending. So was the salute to the silent cinema of Australia and New Zealand, although some ethnographical material could have been siphoned off. For West-erners, the greatest treasure of shining light was probably *The Sentimental Bloke* from 1919, Raymond Longford's famous adaptation of a popular dialect poem about an urban scallywag redeemed by a good woman's love. Heavy dependence on intertitles

made this feel more like a poem with pictures than a conventional narrative feature, but the poem is boisterously charming, and the pictures radiate love and warmth.

The New Zealand Film Archive guards its Maori material with special vigilance. Pordenone's selection was dispatched in the care of the indomitable Witarina Harris, an 87-year-old Maori elder who guided us through the fragmentary footage of scenic wonders and tribal rites, and needed no encouragement to burst into Maori songs of welcome and farewell.

For Maori people, films like *Scenes at the Rotarua Hut* or *Tangi and Funeral* of Te Raurahira's Niece remain pre-

cious documents of a fast-vanishing culture. Pordenone's audience took a scholarly interest, but reserved their excitement for the snatch of Garbo in *The Divine Woman*. This 1928 film had been thought lost beyond recall: no negative, no prints. But one reel has now surfaced, with Russian titles.

Garbo plays a French peasant girl who becomes a great actress but gives up her career for love of an army deserter, played by fellow Swede Lars Hanson. Another Swede, Victor Sjöström, directed. The fragment lasts only nine minutes, but Garbo goes through all the emotions in the rainbow, and leaves you begging for more. Another reel next year, perhaps?

CONCERTS: Mozart, Haydn and Tchaikovsky; and a tribute to a fine singer

Panache and infernal passion

Philharmonia / Slatkin Festival Hall

CLEARLY, neither Alfred Brendel nor Leonard Slatkin has any time for the kind of precious, super-refined Mozart playing that one encounters all too often these days. Admittedly, the Piano Concerto No 25 in C, with its martial rhythms and assertive thematic material, is one of the more demonstrative.

In their performance with the Philharmonia, Brendel and Slatkin assumed a magisterial air that dominated the concerto throughout, although, it hardly needs saying, that did not prevent them from responding to its more intimate moments.

Often, for example, a phrase would begin assertively and be transformed under Brendel's fingers into something questioning or searching. The Andante, especially, provided the opportunity for more extended introspection, while the finale once again brought the imperious and the graceful into a harmonious unity.

Slatkin drew some stylish playing from the Philharmonia, both in the Mozart and in Haydn's Symphony No 98 in B flat. Taut rhythms in the first movement of the latter, and an infectious swing in the Minuet, ensured that this lively product of Haydn's first London visit lacked nothing in exuberance.

The unorthodox Presto finale, with its extended solo for violin (written for the violinist and entrepreneur Johann



Alfred Brendel: no place for preciousness or excessive refinement in his approach

Peter Salomon) and shorter one for keyboard (played by Haydn himself at the first performance), was delivered with great panache.

Christopher Warren-Green, the Philharmonia's leader, took the role of Salomon, while Haydn, who descended from the podium to the harpsichord to rattle off the bravura flourishes with aplomb. It was all done with the twinkle in the eye that one associates with the composer himself.

Entertaining and rewarding as all this was, the music-making palpably shifted into another gear for the final work of the evening's programme: Tchaikovsky's *Francesca da Rimini* fantasia.

Leaping straight into the jaws of hell to join the doomed, illicit lovers Paolo and Francesca, Slatkin and the Philharmonia painted a graphic picture of the nether regions. The infernal whirlwind of Dante's poem raged thrillingly, giving agonised voice to

Tchaikovsky's own forbidden passions.

Plangent woodwind chords and swirling string figures kept up the emotional temperature, until the fearsome chords of the final bars were stabbed out with truly savage ferocity. The members of the Philharmonia played for Slatkin as if possessed. It was a wonderfully Dionysian end to an Apollonian evening.

BARRY MILLINGTON

SOME 25 friends and colleagues of Alfreda Hodgson, the distinguished mezzo-soprano who died in April last year, took part in a memorial tribute, not just in remembrance but also to launch a bursary in her name to benefit young singers. Already chosen for the first bursary is Kate Woolveridge, a Cardiff-born mezzo, who received her award on stage from the Duchess of Kent, patron of the National Federation of Music Societies, which is administering the bursary.

The winner then joined 15 other singers for the climax of the programme, the *Serenade to Music* by Vaughan Williams, in its version for 16 solo voices and two pianos — John Constable and Keith Swallow, whose partnership sounded as if a bit more rehearsal would

Appropriate hail and farewell

Hodgson Memorial Wigmore Hall

not have come amiss. But there was an eloquent melding of voices from the singers strung out behind them, with David Atherton to conduct the ensemble.

Three of the singers were previously heard separately. Penelope Walker sang two songs from Elgar's *Sea Pictures* with velvet tone and warm-hearted fervour, matched by Constable's piano support. Eiddwen Harrity shared four songs from Mah-

ler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* with Thomas Allen, one solo each and the others cleverly split between them, touchingly expressive despite Swallow's stuffy phrasé accompaniment.

Felicity Lott began the programme with engaging spirit in Schubert's *Der Hirt auf dem Felsen*, burnished by the smoothly measured clarinet playing of Michael Collins. What was announced in the programme as "A Surprise!"

from Felicity Palmer and David Wilson-Johnson proved to be a group of vintage parlour songs including "I'll Walk Beside You", sung absolutely straight and appealingly by the baritone, the mezzo almost operatic in J.M. Hatton's "The Enchantress", and two comedy duets greatly enjoyed by the audience: "The Spider and the Fly" and W.H. Squire's "The Singing Lesson".

Instrumental contrast came from Nona Liddell, Christopher van Kampen and John Constable, on violin, cello and piano of considerable refinement and sensitivity in Schubert's wistful *Nocturno* (D897) which called to mind comparable qualities in the artist they were honouring.

NOEL GOODWIN

DANCE

Indian fantasy bares its soles

Shobana Jeyasingh The Place

giving a sense of character and confrontation to patterns that send the performers moving more freely and widely about the stage than is customary in their technique. Belinda Ackermann's design complements this attractive work with costumes of baroque tunics and cuffs over Indian trousers and blouses, set against a wall with a door and two windows showing a cloudy sky behind.

Glyn Perrin's new score for

SHOBANA Jeyasingh has found an ingeniously ambiguous title for her new work: *Romance... with footnotes*. "Romance" as in a fanciful story, rather than a love affair; and "footnotes" not so much the explanations at the bottom of a page as the slapping of bare soles on the floor. Not that there is any story, unless it is the way the choreographer manages to relate the Indian classic dance Bharata Natyam to European music.

To that extent her subject is the same as Richard Alston's in his creation, *Delicious Harbour*, for this double bill Jeyasingh naturally has the greater command of the dance language but Alston — working in this medium for the first time — gives himself a head start by choosing a score from Purcell's theatre music and harpsichord pieces.

This provides him with a baroque flavour which he incorporates into the movement. His dances mirror the varying moods of the music.

Exquisite tribute

Matthew Hawkins and Company Hackney Empire

THE faded red plush and gilt ornamentation of the Hackney Empire perfectly Matthew Hawkins's extravagant style. For *Fresh Dances for the Late Tchaikovsky*, presented by Dance Umbrella, the heavy curtain rose and revealed Hawkins alone, a spidery, flesh-coloured apparition with bald head and black hollows for eyes. Was he an alien, a sprite or a bizarre evocation of Tchaikovsky?

He began with the deft precision and linear clarity of the classical dancer that he is. Initially, his choreography looked balletic; but then grew into an extraordinary transformation, with new shapes introduced as legs splayed or the torso bent alongside traditional jumps, balances and beats. This is done as you have never seen it before: strange, outrageous, occasionally parodic, but always beautiful.

Hawkins and his long-time designer, Pearl, inhabit a magical realm of theatrical affectation and operatic intensity that echoes Lindsay Kemp without the seediness or amateurish movement. The small-scale gesture has a stylised drama. Costumes are outlandish masterpieces of Beardsleyesque invention.

There is Hawkins, androgynous in white satin and high-heeled shoes, Hawkins in a spangled leotard, dancing on point. There is one of his female dancers, a barefoot sylph in vaporous tulle or an outrageous swan, with great wings as a skirt and stiletto

lace-up boots. Attesting to the taste for high camp is the choice of two other performers. Actress Fenella Fielding applies her mannered enunciation to romantic texts that derive from various sources — including poetry Tchaikovsky set to music. Performance artist Rose English brings six feet of diva-like womanhood arriving, like Fielding, in a velvet gown.

One of Hawkins's impressive skills is the way he unobtrusively adapts his movements to English's untrained body. She performs a ravishing duet of formalised pascings, gestures and embraces with him, their silhouettes bathed in the warm pastels favoured by Pearl's lighting. It is extreme artifice, yet through it comes an emotional power.

Perhaps English's presence referred to Tchaikovsky's patron, the Countess von Meck; perhaps the male dancer who joins Hawkins after his opening solo is the young man who precipitated Tchaikovsky's suicide. But more likely not. Hawkins's piece, set to music lavishly played by the Endymion Ensemble, marks the centenary of the composer's death, but is not intended as an exposition of the events surrounding that death. Instead, you get the impression of a collection of dances and inspirations. Enter this world and you enter into exquisite enchantment.

NADINE MEISNER

Ackermann's stage setting is correspondingly austere, with pale plastic sheets on the floor and hung in a metal frame above, but the rich colours of the costumes stand out warmly. Similarly, Jeyasingh's choreography — brisk, heavy steps in unison for the spoken syllables — relaxes into a freer spacial, rhythmic and even sometimes emotional pattern elsewhere.

Both parts of the programme are sympathetically danced by the five young women of Jeyasingh's company: alert, exact and responsive. The company tours Germany, Cambridge, Bradford, Swansea, Aberystwyth, Lisbon and Huddersfield.

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LAW

Susan Edwards predicts that in future victims of rape without violence may stay silent



Austen Donnellan gets a kiss from his mother after being found not guilty of raping a girl student after a drunken university party

Much heated debate has erupted in the wake of the recent acquittal of Austin Donnellan. Alarmingly, a sinister face of public reaction has been unleashed, eager and ready to mete out a different kind of "just desert".

The call has ranged from the abolition of anonymity for victims where defendants are acquitted to, in its most extreme form, the prosecution of the victim for bringing the case in the first place.

As a society we have a contradictory attitude to rape. When the rape is committed by a total stranger who has broken into the victim's home and physically assaulted and threatened her, we are of one voice in wanting punishment for the offender.

The Criminal Justice Act 1991, section 1 and 2, puts this sentiment on a statutory footing ensuring that custodial sentences and the length of sentence are factors duly considered in such cases.

This provision follows closely in the footsteps of the ruling of Lord Lane, the former Lord Chief Justice, who, in 1986, in the case of *Billam* formulated guidelines for encouraging consistency and uniformity in the future sentencing of convicted rapists to ensure that punishment matched the heinousness of their crime.

Focus attended only to cases of rape characterised by aggravating features which Lord Lane held to include: rape accompanied by violence; threat of violence or where a weapon was used in the execution of the rape; repeated rape; planned rape, where the defendant had previous convictions, where the victim was subjected to further indignities or where the victim was old. Judges were also encouraged to pay regard to the effect the crime had on its victim.

The message then as now is resoundingly clear: aggravated

Swept under the bedclothes

advance over the pre-*Billam* sentencing predilections (26 per cent received sentences of five years and above in 1985), the length of sentence for rape has declined compared with 1987 where 61 per cent of offenders received sentences of five years and above, compared with 1989 where this fell to 53 per cent.

A study of the mortality profile of rape cases at the other end of the criminal justice spectrum raises much cause for concern, demonstrating that over the years fewer cases are likely to go to trial and the mortality of cases in the pre-trial stage is greater now than it has ever been.

In 1991, of the 954 males for trial, 43 per cent were acquitted and 56 per cent convicted, compared to an acquittal rate of 36 per cent in 1989 and 25 per cent in 1985. Yet in 1991 rapes recorded by police peaked at a record high of 4,045. At the end of the day only 13 per cent of notifiable offences resulted in a conviction compared with 17 per cent in 1987, and only 11 per cent resulted in prison.

The only conclusion that can properly be drawn from all this is that the legal treatment of rape cases has actually worsened, since prosecutions have not risen proportionately to the rise in offences recorded.

Public and press post-mortems on the Donnellan case do little to assist the protection of rape victims who are raped in the absence of violence.

The law in the area of rape in the absence of aggravated features lacks clarity. Experience has shown that the legal prognosis for the victim is very poor indeed. The essential ingredients required in law contained in section 1 of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act of 1976, amount to evidence of sexual intercourse with a woman who at the time of the intercourse does not consent to it, and at the time he knows that she does not consent to it or he is reckless as to whether she consents.

But where consent is left to the jury, in cases where the parties are known to one another, privately held attitudes that women should adhere to the social curfew on their lives or else take the consequences variously exercise the mind of the average juror.

Second, in these cases where violence is absent although the law has provided a definition which emphasises that lack of consent (and not violence) is the crux of the matter, cases before the courts have shown a mean application of this. Whether he is reckless as to whether she consents depends on what view you form on whether she consented. And the world view still remains that if she didn't struggle, say "No", "No" and "No" again, then she must be saying "Yes".

he has put in unstinting effort on behalf of the Bar's fight against crown prosecutors being allowed into higher courts. Heilbron would have been a more glamorous choice, but observers say she was not yet ready.

The real difficulty arises not from dealing justly with aggravated rape but dealing with non-aggravated rape at all. As for the rape victim of tomorrow, she will be deterred from reporting to the police where rape is not accompanied by violence.

The Crown Prosecution Service in weighing the evidence will consider whether there is a realistic prospect of conviction.

In future cases of "date rape", the CPS will more than likely come to the conclusion that in these cases where consent was not expressly given, nor expressly withheld, the prospect of conviction is uncertain.

The pre-trial mortality will increase and in due course victims will retreat into silence, and so called "date rape" will become the male prerogative where women's only defence is not to be found in law but in purdah. Crime prevention is about learning to be man-wise.

The author is senior lecturer in socio-legal studies at the University of Buckingham.

Let the case be heard

In Strasbourg tomorrow, the European Court of Human Rights will hear the submissions in an unusual case brought by a prisoner against the British government because the acoustics in the courtroom at his trial were so bad that he was physically unable to hear the proceedings.

The case raises various questions about what rights a defendant has to hear the case against him.

The prisoner, S., is serving a sentence of ten years for rape and associated offences. He complains that he was denied a fair trial, contrary to Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights, because the bad acoustics at Norwich Crown Court prevented him from hearing all of the proceedings which resulted in his conviction in 1988.

In dismissing his appeal, the Court of Appeal in England ruled that there was no injustice because "his solicitor and his counsel had not the slightest difficulty in following the proceedings and in representing him in a way which could not possibly be complained about".

The lower judicial body, the European Commission, rejected Mr S's complaint by 11 votes to 7. The majority accepted that an accused person "must be assured of the effective exercise of his right to take part in the proceedings", which is frustrated if he is unable to hear the evidence. However, the majority were satisfied that the applicant's lawyers, to whom he had complained during the trial, had not raised the problem with the trial judge, and those lawyers had not been impeded in presenting the defence of their client.

The dissenting members of the commission considered that the defendant had done all he could by objecting about the problem to his lawyers and to the prison officer in the dock. The dissenting judgment noted that the English Court of Appeal had acknowledged in 1989 that "there would appear to be something in the complaint of the applicant, namely, that he could not hear properly at all times what was going on".

In his separate dissent, Mr E. Buxton argued that justice must not only be done, it must also be heard to be done, by the person most closely and directly concerned in the proceedings, namely the accused.

A defendant is entitled to hear, as well as see, the proceedings against him. To the extent that the Court of Appeal failed to recognise the importance of this principle, it was in error. Other, subsequent cases have made the position clear. This month's *Criminal Law Review* includes a report of *R v Greenwood* where, last April, the Court of Appeal emphasised that a defendant was entitled to hear everything that was being said against him by prosecution witnesses at

his trial. The general principle was re-stated by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in *July in Kunath v The State*, an appeal from the Mauritius Court of Criminal Appeal concerning a defendant who did not have the assistance of an interpreter at his trial.

The "corporeal presence" of a defendant is not enough, since "the accused, by reason of his presence, should be able to understand the proceedings and decide what witnesses he wishes to call, whether or not to give evidence and, if so, upon what matters relevant to the case against him".

It is unlikely that S. will win his case. The trial judge was not told of the defendant's difficulty in hearing the proceedings. This was because the defendant's lawyers chose not to raise the matter. The European Court is likely to conclude that other than in exceptional circumstances, the State cannot be held responsible for a decision taken on behalf of a defendant by his legal representatives.

A recent application of that principle was the decision of the European Court last December in *Edwards v United Kingdom*. The court rejected a complaint that the applicant had been denied a fair trial because of the non-disclosure of certain evidence. The court was unpersuaded by an argument that the Court of Appeal in that case had not heard evidence from police officers, since "it was open to counsel for the applicant to make an application to the Court of Appeal — which they chose not to do — that the police officers be called as witnesses".

There will, of course, be extreme cases where a real risk that a miscarriage of justice has occurred cannot be ignored on the ground that counsel for the defence did not take appropriate steps to protect the interests of his client. The European Court is unlikely to regard the present case as falling into such an exceptional category: there is no suggestion that had the defendant heard the proceedings, they would have been conducted any differently.

But whatever the rights and wrongs of Mr S's complaint, the length of time taken to determine it emphasises the vital need for the changes to the Strasbourg system agreed earlier this month in Vienna by the Council of Europe. The slow pace of litigation in Strasbourg is the consequence of the enormous growth in business created by the success of the Convention.

The amalgamation of the court and the commission (as agreed in Vienna) will improve, eventually, what is already the most effective and sophisticated judicial system in the world for the protection of fundamental human rights.

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



COUNSEL
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As a society we have a contradictory attitude to rape

Questions of justice

NEW ground will be broken this week when Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, takes his place beside other panelists for the first *Question Time* ever to feature a serving judge — let alone the most senior judge in England and Wales.

He will be sitting alongside George Carman QC, the leading barrister; Charles Pollard, Thames Valley Chief Constable, and Vivien Stera of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

The programme, chaired by Peter Sissons, is a one-off and will be confined to law and order, thereby not exposing Lord Taylor to the whole gamut of political controversy.

However, in the wake of the

INNS AND OUTS

farore surrounding Lord Woolf's comments — not entirely anticipated, it appears, by the Law Lord's letter last week to *The Times* — law and order may be quite controversial enough.

Coup at court

THE government's law officers have secured something of a coup with an action in which they took the French government before their own courts. The highest administrative court in France, the Conseil d'Etat, has overturned a decision by the French government in refusing to extradite a Malaysian national living in France, Dr Rais Bin Saniman.

Dr Saniman is wanted by the Hong Kong government to face charges of conspiracy

to defraud and accepting corrupt payments (to the tune of \$800 million (£540 million)).

The Hong Kong government has been pursuing the case through the French courts since 1986. The law officers in Britain, who have been acting for the Hong Kong government, had exhausted all avenues and the supreme administrative court was the only option left.

Not just yet

SO THE Bar is not to have its first woman chairman — at least not in the near future. Peter Goldsmith QC romped home in the recent election for the key post of vice-chairman of the 6,000-strong profession, beating Hilary Heilbron QC. Goldsmith was widely considered to deserve the job.

he has put in unstinting effort on behalf of the Bar's fight against crown prosecutors being allowed into higher courts. Heilbron would have been a more glamorous choice, but observers say she was not yet ready.

Poll tax ruling

A HIGH Court ruling that prison was not the appropriate sentence for a young poll tax defaulter could lead to damages claims by people aged 21 or under who have been penalised for non-payment with prison sentences.

Mr Justice Laws set aside the youth conviction on the ground that the Newcastle-under-Lyme magistrates who had sentenced him to 28 days' youth custody for failing to pay a £709 bill should have taken account of the provisions in the Criminal Justice Act which require that prison is treated as a last resort.

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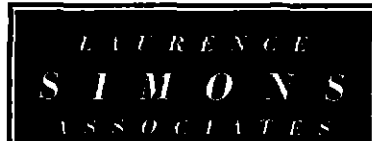
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A right that a wife can bank on

Banks must advise women on the risks when husbands give their home as security, the law lords have ruled.

David Wolfson welcomes the decision

Last week's House of Lords ruling which enables Bridget O'Brien to keep her home after she signed over to her husband her share as security for Barclays Bank is likely to please both banks and those who guarantee loans. Mrs O'Brien, a mother of six who faced losing her home in Slough, Berkshire, after the bank called in a £135,000 overdraft, claimed she was not correctly informed about what she was signing. She wanted the charge set aside.

In the test case ruling, the law lords clearly set out the law for existing loans and future transactions.

The problem typically arises where a bank takes a personal guarantee from a wife or her share in a jointly owned home as security for a loan given to the husband or to the husband's business.

In the Court of Appeal, the court held that mere failure to understand the transaction — signing on the dotted line without fully appreciating the meaning of the small print — was enough to allow the wife

to avoid liability if the bank had failed to advise the wife of the meaning of the transaction and the risks she was undertaking if the loan was not repaid and to advise her to get independent advice.

The law lords have now held that mere failure to understand the transaction is not enough. The wife must be able to show actual undue influence by her husband (meaning that she was bullied into signing the documents or that she was totally subservient to his will) or misrepresentation in order to be able to make a claim. The bank would be liable only if it had constructive notice of the undue influence. A bank faced with such a claim will be able to defend it and accordingly enforce its security if it acted reasonably when the wife signed the documentation.

The lords held that for future cases, "acting reasonably" would usually mean that the bank had insisted, when the security was taken, that the wife attend a private meeting with the bank's representative (in the absence of her hus-

band) to explain to her the nature of the transaction and where she would be advised to get independent legal advice. Banks cannot object to this; it is very similar to what they have already agreed to do in the banking code of practice which came into force in March 1992. The test for future cases laid down by the law lords is therefore fair to both wives and banks.

The question of what will be required of the bank in current cases involving events that took place before this ruling has been left open.

The law lords also recognised that unmarried cohabitation, both heterosexual and homosexual, was today common and that the rules that applied to wives would also apply to people in these relationships, provided the bank knew of the relationship. This recognition at judicial level of social changes is no doubt a reflection of the judiciary's changing face but it may cause delicate problems for bank managers. If two young men come into the branch, having the same address, one of them



Bridget O'Brien with two of her children: she can keep her home although she signed over her share as security for a bank

seeking to borrow money and the other offering to act as surety, does the manager have to attempt to ascertain whether they are in a homosexual relationship and therefore fall within the O'Brien ruling?

These rules apply only to cases in which the wife is effectively a surety in that the

money is given to her husband or her husband's company. In the case of Maxine Pitt, decided at the same time as O'Brien, Mrs Pitt was, with her husband, a joint borrower of the money. The Lords said this meant the bank had no duty to advise her separately because nothing indicated that

anything was at all unusual about the transaction. To assume that whenever a couple asked for a joint mortgage there was a risk that the wife was being put upon by the husband would place an unreasonable burden on banks.

The decision is concerned not only with a loan to the hus-

band but also to a company in which the husband but not the wife had "a direct financial interest". This raises some questions. If the husband's company is effectively the sole source of the family's finance, it is difficult to say that the wife has no "direct financial interest" in the success of the com-

pany even if, as a matter of legal analysis, she is not a shareholder in or director of the company.

The finding that there is no authority for treating married women more tenderly than other classes of persons is to be welcomed. The Lords rejected the notion of a "special equity" for married women, instead holding that the traditional rules of notice and undue influence provided adequate protection. It recognised that for most families the matrimonial home was the main financial asset.

Although one would have sympathy for a wife threatened with the loss of her home, there was an important public interest in ensuring the wealth tied up in the matrimonial home did not become economically sterile.

If the law swung too far in favour of invalidating securities, institutions would not lend on such security, rendering it difficult for small businesses to obtain loan capital. The decision took full account of these considerations.

The two decisions provide a fair and comprehensive test for future cases, while allowing judges to reach decisions in existing cases according to the particular facts of the case.

● The author is a barrister specialising in banking law.

The George Michael case arose as telecommunications companies were forging new links. Entertainment will not be the same again

It was through one of those neat coincidences of history that George Michael put in his first appearance at the High Court in his attempt to escape the clutches of Sony in the same week that the business world went multimedia mad.

The deal between Bell Atlantic and Telecommunications Inc, which has fired the imagination of the business community like few others, offers the prospect of convergence being achieved between telecommunications, computing, media and entertainment.

However, as the George Michael case has shown, convergence does not suit everyone. When Sony took over CBS in 1988, Michael found himself signed up to a company which, in his words, "treated him as little more than software".

So although the link-up between Sony's technology and the entertainment business was considered

Singer? No, just a set of electronic signals

a masterpiece, the result is to be seen in the courts.

Forward-thinking legal practices operating in this area are already preparing to cope with the new demands clients will be making. One example is Bird & Bird. A small firm by City standards, it has achieved a strong reputation in telecommunications, computers and electronics. But according to David Kerr, head of the communications group, the firm is now being drawn into entertainment work because the two areas are becoming linked.

Artists will find themselves doing

deals with companies that not only produce CDs or films but also own or are planning to set up a distribution infrastructure. Hence, a pop video may be produced by a company that owns the telephone line through which it will be distributed or that plans to use it as the basis of a video game to be distributed by the same means. Understandably, artists and multimedia companies are starting to seek a package of advice which wraps up the entertainment law along with intellectual property, information technology and telecommunications. Mr Kerr says: "It would not



George Michael: suing Sony

surprise me if we recruited a team of entertainment lawyers to complement our existing skills on the technology side."

It does not, however, stop there. The regulatory framework for the development of multimedia is very

complex and a high level of competence in European law will be essential to firms in the field.

As more joint ventures are undertaken and mergers planned which mimic Bell-TCI, lawyers will be sought to act as deal-makers to ensure that the transactions do not fall foul of anti-trust measures.

Other leading firms in this field include Simon Olszang, Denton Hall, Clifford Chance and Coudert Brothers, the international law firm with origins in America.

Colin Long, head of the international telecommunications group, believes that we are entering a genuinely new era in which cable will change how we work, shop and entertain ourselves.

With its American connections, Coudert may be well placed to handle US clients at a time when multimedia experiments are likely to be taking place in Europe.

"The law is struggling to keep up with the technology," he says. "US companies are likely to use the UK as a laboratory for merging video and telecommunications and seeing the applications."

US publishers and other information providers are already preparing to distribute information through cable systems in which they have an interest. To handle this, Coudert, like Bird & Bird, is blending together diverse legal skills.

George Michael may dislike being reduced to a set of electronic signals, but in technical and legal terms that may turn out to be all he is in reality. Whether the law can turn him back into an artist, the next few weeks will reveal. This is just a preliminary skirmish in a new chapter of legal history.

EDWARD FENNELL

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Recruiting a Successor
One of the more delicate and intricate tasks we face from time to time is being asked to find a successor to the retiring head of an in-house legal department.

The task can be delicate when the person retiring feels ambivalent about his or her replacement. They want a successor who is capable — but perhaps not too capable, intelligent — but not too intelligent. They may not say this, and may not inwardly accept it, but there is often a reluctance to recruit someone who, by comparison, may excel. For this reason alone, it is sensible for them to put the recruitment exercise into other hands.

The intricacy of the task is usually a problem of timing. How soon should a successor be recruited? It is irresponsible, on the face of it, not to bring in a replacement at least a year or two before the date of retirement. In practice this cannot be done. Candidates who are suitable — who have all the qualities needed to be head of department — will not be prepared to accept a position as a subordinate for more than a few months. If they are prepared to accept such a position, they are probably ipso facto unsuitable. Personnel departments often agonise over this dilemma. Unfortunately, there is always the temptation to act responsibly and plan the succession years ahead.

The usual outcome is for one or two recruitment exercises to be held without success, each one taking six to nine months, until at last the date of retirement approaches. At this late stage a final recruitment drive is mounted, and it succeeds.

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Headmaster entitled to buy school house

Hughes and Another v Greenwich London Borough Council

Before Lord Templeman, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Lowry, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Slynn of Hadley

[Speeches October 21]

Where the headmaster of a residential school, who was entitled under his contract of employment to free accommodation, occupied a house in the grounds, not because his occupation was necessary for the performance of his duties or because he was expressly required to do so, there was no compelling reason to imply a term into his contract that his occupation was required for the better performance of his duties. Accordingly he was not excluded by paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 1 to the Housing Act 1985 of his right to buy the house under Part V of that Act.

The House of Lords so stated dismissing an appeal by Greenwich London Borough Council from the Court of Appeal (Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Balcombe and Sir John Megaw) (*The Times* May 22, 1992) which had affirmed an order of Judge Kennedy, QC, at Haywards Heath County Court, declaring that the applicants, John Pryce Hughes and his wife, Hilary Ann Hughes, were entitled by virtue of Part V of the 1985 Act to exercise their right to buy the house "Cedars" situated in the grounds of Staplefield Special Boarding School, near Haywards Heath, Sussex.

Mr Hughes had been employed by the local authority and its predecessor, the Inner London Education Authority, from 1958 until his retirement in 1988 under successive contracts of employment which entitled him to the provision of free accommodation but did not expressly require him to occupy the house or to do so for the better performance of his duties. He had first been accommodated in the school but had later occupied a cottage in the grounds and from 1963 had lived at Cedars.

Mr Frederick Reynolds, QC and Mr Paul Stewart for the local authority; Mr Michael Hart, QC and Mr Christopher Tidmarsh for the applicants.

LORD LOWRY said that the question was whether Mr Hughes was a secure tenant of Cedars and accordingly had a right under sections 79 and 118 of the 1985 Act to acquire the freehold of that house, or whether, as the local authority contended, he was precluded from doing so by paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 1 to the Act, which provided that a tenant was not a secure tenant if the tenant was, *inter alia*, an employee of the landlord and his contract of employment required him to occupy the dwelling-house for the better performance of his duties.

His Lordship referred to the judge's review and analysis of the evidence and in particular to his unchallenged finding of fact that Mr Hughes' contract of employment required him to occupy the dwelling-house for the better performance of his duties.

Mr Reynolds conceded that for the local authority to succeed, it had to be implied in the contract of employment that the headmaster "is required to occupy Cedars for the better performance of his duties", but he added no decided case referring to the doctrine of implied terms in any way supported the proposition that on the facts found in the present case any such term could possibly be implied.

In his Lordship's opinion, the only way such a term could be implied into the contract would be to show that, unless he lived in Cedars, Mr Hughes could not perform his duties as headmaster.

His Lordship rejected Mr Reynolds' assertion that that amounted to a gloss or a distortion of the words of paragraph 2(1) which merely required "the better performance of his duties".

In order that a term might be implied, there had to be a compelling reason for deeming that term to form part of the contract, and that compelling reason was missing, unless it was shown that Mr Hughes would live in the house in order to do his job, but the facts found contradicted that proposition: see *Laurie (Eastbourne) Ltd v Cooper* [1994] AC 108, 125, 137 and *Liverpool City Council v Irwin* [1997] AC 239, 250.

As his Lordship said in *Laurie*, Mr Hughes was not a Belfast Corporation

[1970] NI 68, 83: "It is not enough for the court to conclude... that such a term would have made the contract more reasonable: terms will be implied not in order to make for the parties a contract which the court considers fair, but only to make effective the contract which the parties have made for themselves."

Once that principle was accepted it became pointless for the local authority to argue that a requirement had to be implied in a contract just because in fact for Mr Hughes to live in Cedars might have promoted, or even did promote, the better performance of his duties.

The local authority had relied on *Liverpool City Council v Irwin* in support of its argument that the parties shared an obvious but unexpressed intention that Mr Hughes should live at Cedars and that it was not open to the court to infer that he was not obliged to live there.

It was, in his Lordship's opinion, impossible to contend that it was without saying that Mr Hughes was obliged to live in Cedars when one recalled that it was not necessary for him to live there to do his job.

And, in the absence of necessity, it could not be tenably argued that there was a presumed intention of the parties that he had to live there.

Furthermore there was no gap in completeness in the contract and accordingly no room to imply the term contended for.

Mr Hughes was not by implication required to occupy Cedars. But even if he had been he was not required to do so for the better performance of his duties. It was clear that the employer was providing a facility but not imposing an obligation.

Even if it had been an obligation, it could have been attributed simply to the expectation that the headmaster would live in the employer's house as the designated way of enjoying the free lodging to which he was entitled.

His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Templeman, Lord Bridge, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Slynn agreed.

Solicitors: Mr David Atkinson, Woolwich; Mr Bolton & Co for Ian Poole, Haywards Heath.

In re Barretto

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice Roch

[Judgment October 19]

The procedure introduced by section 16 of the Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990 was not to be invoked in respect of confiscation orders under the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 which had been made before the section came into force on July 1, 1991.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by a receiver appointed under the 1986 Act from Mr Justice Schiemann who had refused his application under section 16 of the 1990 Act for a certificate that the amount which might be realised from the defendant's assets was greater than the amount taken into account in making the confiscation order against him on January 26, 1990 after his conviction for offences contrary to the 1986 Act.

Judge Owen Stabile, QC, sitting at the Central Criminal Court, applying the procedure provided by the 1986 Act, had certified that the court had found the defendant had benefited from drug trafficking in the sum of £595,519.91 and was satisfied that the amount available at the time of the confiscation order and to be recovered pursuant to that order was £287,603.29.

The judge imposed a three-year term of imprisonment in default of payment to be served consecutively to a sentence of 20 years imprisonment subsequently imposed in respect of the drug trafficking offences.

In 1992 a receiver was appointed to recover an outstanding sum under the confiscation order of January 26, 1990.

Mr Andrew Mitchell for the

receiver; Mr Timothy Sewell for the defendant.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the confiscation procedure introduced by the 1986 Act was clearly expressed to operate where payment had been received from drug trafficking whether before or after the commencement of section 1 of that Act. To that extent the 1986 Act had retrospective effect.

Under that Act it was plain that on a defendant's application, the amount to be recovered under a confiscation order could in certain circumstances be reduced but there was no provision for the Crown or a receiver appointed under the Act to apply for the sum to be increased.

On the making of a confiscation order a defendant would accordingly know the limit of his financial obligation which would then be fixed, subject to appeal or application by him.

He would also know that if he paid the recoverable sum as certified he would not have to serve the period of imprisonment in default, and if he paid that sum out of assets which were not the proceeds of drug trafficking he would not be liable to the Crown or a receiver, lose his title to assets which were such proceeds.

The 1990 Act was enacted to give effect in English law to the 1988 Vienna Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Treaty Series No 26 [1992], Cm 1927).

There could be no doubt that the convention reflected the determination of the many signatory states to stamp out the international trade and strip drug traffickers of their ill-gotten gains.

The Act was also introduced to fill loopholes which had appeared in the 1986 Act.

Mr Mitchell had submitted that the presumption against the

retrospective application of statutes did not apply, in particular, for the following reasons:

1 The important step under the 1986 Act was the assessment of a defendant's benefit from drug trafficking. That figure once assessed could not be revised upwards under the 1986 Act or the 1990 Act.

In contrast, determination of the recoverable sum was based on material available to the Crown at the time and was a procedural step towards liquidation of the defendant's realisable assets.

That was not a penal proceeding but simply a procedure designed to ensure that drug traffickers did not profit from their crime.

Since Parliament had intended traffickers to be stripped of their ill-gotten gains, the variation of the recoverable sum after a confiscation order had been made could not be said to interfere with vested rights.

The presumption against retrospective operation of statutes did not apply where punishment was not involved and there was no interference with vested rights, but if it did apply then the case fell within the well established exception relating to procedure.

2 Where similar language had been used in previous legislative provisions, the courts had held that the meaning was clear and that reliance could be placed on provisions disavowing the effect of the defendant and not in force at the time when an offence had been committed: see *R v Dharma* [1995] 2 KB 335; *DPP v Lamb* [1994] 2 KB 89; and *Carter-Fear v Graham* (1994) 62 LGR 279; and compare *R v Penfold* [1995] 1 Cr App R 265.

3 If fairness were relevant, it was not unfair to a defendant to deprive him of assets which he would not have been allowed to keep had he not concealed their existence at the

time of the confiscation order.

Parliament could not have intended to show any indulgence towards such defendants.

In his Lordship's judgment the judge had been right to reject those submissions. His Lordship's reasons were:

Whereas the 1986 Act expressly provided that it should apply to certain events occurring before its commencement, there was no such express provision in the 1990 Act.

The context provided by sections 14 and 15 of the 1990 Act did not give rise to an inference that section 16 was intended to have retrospective effect.

In the absence of any express or implied indication that Parliament intended it to have that effect, it was necessary to look at its operation to see if it invited application of the presumption against retroactivity.

Although a confiscation order was made before sentence was passed for the substantive offence and the term of imprisonment in default was passed to procure compliance and not by way of punishment, those provisions were in a broad sense penal, inflicting the vengeance of society on those who had transgressed in that field.

Although it was also true that the 1986 Act provided for drug traffickers to be stripped of their gains, it did not treat them as having forfeited their property rights.

It put them in the same position as a defendant subject to a money judgment, but with a penalty for non-payment. So any provision which increased a money judgment retrospectively, particularly if coupled with an additional liability to imprisonment, did disturb a defendant's settled rights.

Although section 16 was procedural in the sense that it introduced a new procedure, it was not merely procedural: it could lead to a substantial increase in a

defendant's financial obligation and to a lengthened term of imprisonment in default.

If the receiver were right, the defendant was liable to have his financial obligation increased and his term of imprisonment extended on grounds and by a procedure which could not have been relied on in February 1990 after the confiscation order was made. Subject to appeal or application by him his obligation had then been finally fixed.

To permit that obligation to be increased and the penalty strengthened by means of a law enacted subsequently would contravene the presumption against retroactivity as it had been against retroactivity in English law: see *Office Cherifian des Phosphates SA v Yamashita Shinnihon Steamship Co Ltd* [The Times April 17, 1993; [1993] 3 WLR 266, 272-274].

It would subject the defendant to a substantial disadvantage by applying a change in the law to events which had occurred well before the change.

His Lordship did not think the authorities relied on by Mr Mitchell overcame that difficulty. He had reservations about the decisions in *Lamb's case* and that of *Carter-Fear*. The *Penfold* decision reflected a sounder principle.

A defendant was not to be substantially prejudiced by laws construed as having retrospective effect unless Parliament's intention to do so should have that effect was plain. Parliament had not displaced the presumption in the present case and it would not be fair to treat it as having done so however strong one's disapproval of the defendant's conduct.

Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice Roch agreed with the result.

Solicitors: Lawrence Graham; Sears Blok, Camberwell.

Duty when making pay orders

Regina v Ellis

A compensation order should only be made following scrupulous enquiries into a defendant's existing financial position and not on the basis of pure speculation as to his future prospects.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice McCowan, Mr Justice Ognall and Mr Justice Gage) so held on October 5, 1993 in allowing an appeal by Stephen Ellis against the imposition of a compensation order of £1,500 following his conviction on January 18, 1993 at Southwark Crown Court (Miss Assistant Recorder Joanna Greenberg and a jury) of two counts of obtaining property by deception. No appeal was made against the sentence of 180 hours community service.

MR JUSTICE OGNALL said that the appellant had lost his job and there had been no material before the sentencing court of any prospect of employment. However, the judge had said that she had seen the appellant giving evidence and had formed the view that he would be able to find employment. On that basis she had made the compensation order.

Their Lordships were quite satisfied that that order had been wrong in principle. Before a compensation order was made, still less made, it was the duty of the court to enquire scrupulously as to the existing financial position of the defendant. It would not do to make such an order on the basis of pure speculation.

For the judge to have concluded that, on the impression of the appellant he would at some future unspecified time be able to satisfy a compensation order was unwarranted on the facts and wrong in principle. The order would be quashed.

Solicitors: Dianne Rocks, Greenwich; Solicitor, Metropolitan Police.

Providing antecedents to the crown court

Practice Direction (Crime: Antecedents)

New interim minimum standards for the provision of antecedent information in the crown court which were to apply with immediate effect were announced by Lord Taylor of Gossforth, Lord Chief Justice.

The Lord Chief Justice, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Mr Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Wright on October 25, handed down *Practice Direction (Crime: Antecedents)* which revoked *Practice Direction (Crime: Antecedents)* [1996] 1 WLR 1184 with effect from November 1.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE stated that the new standard, annexed to the present direction, was to apply henceforth.

Interim minimum standard for the provision of antecedent information in the crown court. Those procedures had been agreed by the Lord Chancellor's

Department, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers to facilitate the implementation of recommendations and assist counsel in presenting antecedents to the crown court. The procedures set minimum standards as to the level of information to be provided. Where current local arrangements exceeded those standards they should be maintained.

Details of the circumstances of previous convictions for offences of a similar nature, or having similar victim, would in many cases be of considerable assistance to sentencing courts. Officers should ensure that any such available information was included in the antecedents as set out in paragraph 1(b) below (see also *Manual of Guidance* (MGI) pt 11.4. (viii)(b)).

The interim standard set out in the present direction was to be applied to cases where the requirements for information that judges might have, and therefore had to

be regarded as the minimum information to be provided. In any case where additional information concerning, for example, the circumstances of the current or previous offences was available it should be included. Judges might require additional information in any individual case.

1 Standard formats to be used. Form NIB74C for personal and other details; Form MGI6 for previous convictions; Form MGI7 for recorded cautions. Those forms to be completed by the police, each document to be typed.

(a) Information contained in paragraphs 1 to 11 of NIB74C would be completed from information provided by the defendant while in police custody following arrest. No action would be taken to verify any personal information. Where information was refused or not available that was to be stated in the form. Paragraphs 9 to 11 should contain brief details only. (b) Previous conviction information would be provided on MGI6. Brief details of the circumstances of the last three similar offences were to be shown on MGI6 alongside the relevant conviction. Spent convictions were to be marked in accordance with paragraph 7.15.3 of the *Manual of Guidance*.

(c) Details of any cautions recorded would be provided on MGI7.

2 Provision to court and parties. (a) The crown court antecedents would be prepared by the police immediately following criminal proceedings or upon receipt of a notice of appeal.

(b) Ten copies of the set of antecedent documents would be prepared in each case. Two copies to be provided to the CPS direct, the remainder to the court. The court would send two copies to the defence and one to the probation service. The remaining copies were for the courts use, including one for the notes taker.

(c) The antecedent documents had to be served as above, within 21 days of committal in each case. Any points arising from the antecedent information were to be raised with the police, by the defence solicitor, at least seven days before the listing so that the matter could be resolved prior to the hearing.

(d) Seven days before the hearing date, the police would check the conviction details and any additional convictions shown would be listed on an additional MGI6A and served as above to be attached to the documents already supplied. Details of any additional convictions shown would also be provided at that stage.

3 Ancillary matters. (a) The preparation of forms for the acceptance of last minute offences to be taken into consideration would be the responsibility of the crown court police liaison officer at the court centre who would also activate any police circulars resulting therefrom.

(b) Any exhibits required in guilty plea cases would be brought to court by the police and thereafter be the responsibility of the court police liaison officer.

(c) Excepted bench warrants would be returned by the police liaison officer who would deliver the same direct to the clerk present in court.

Model forms were attached to the *Practice Direction*.

Unlawful condition is not severable from grant of licence

Regina v Inner London Crown Court, Ex parte Siddi

Before Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice Steyn

[Judgment October 20]

An unlawful condition was not severable from a justices' on-licence where the licence would not have been granted but for the inclusion of the offending condition.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing the appeal of Alken Al Siddi against the refusal of the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Roch) (*The Times* December 2, 1992) to grant an order of certiorari quashing Inner London Crown Court's dismissal of his application for the revocation of his on-licence.

MR PHILIP ENGELMAN for the appellant; Mr James Rankin for Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

LORD JUSTICE STEYN said that the appellant had held a justices' on-licence in respect of his wine bar. The licence had been subject to a restriction prohibiting the sale of beer.

It was common ground that the "no beer" condition was unlawful. However, Mr Engelmann had submitted that the Divisional Court had erred in holding that the impact of the unlawful condition was to render the whole licence invalid.

He argued that it was possible to sever the unlawful condition and the licence was then perfectly valid.

The condition was expressed as "[the applicant] shall not sell any beer". In a grammatical sense it was possible to sever that sentence. But it did not really depend on the phrasing of the language; rather it depended on whether the condition was notionally severable.

In *R v North Hertfordshire District Council, Ex parte Cobbold* [1995] 3 All ER 487, in considering whether a licence was rendered invalid by an unlawful condition, Mr Justice Mann said that the proper test was whether the essential character of the licence would be affected if the unlawful condition was severed.

In his Lordship's judgment that was a helpful test but it was possible to refine that test and to render it more concrete. In *Wade's*

Administrative Law (6th edition 1988) p340 it was said:

"If an invalid condition is attached to a licence... the permission without the condition may be such as the licensing authority would not have been willing to grant on grounds of public interest. The right course for the court is then to quash the whole permission..."

It was right that in applying that test there would be cases either side of the line. However, the important point was that the test to be applied was a concrete one. If the "no beer" condition had not been proffered by the appellant to the justices, would the licence nevertheless have been granted?

The court did not know exactly what had happened: whether the justices would have been willing to grant the licence to the appellant without the "no beer" condition. In those circumstances his Lordship had been driven to the conclusion that the entire licence was invalid.

Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice Russell agreed.

Solicitors: Dianne Rocks, Greenwich; Solicitor, Metropolitan Police.

Residential homes contract is lawful

Regina v Newcastle upon Tyne City Council, Ex parte Dixon

Before Mr Justice Auld

[Judgment October 20]

A local authority, having a duty to provide community care services under the National Assistance Act 1948, as amended, was not restrained by that Act or the Registered Homes Act 1948 in public law in the contractual terms it made in arrangements with operators of registered residential care homes to provide those services under the 1948 Act.

Mr Justice Auld so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division dismissing the application of Victoria Dixon, on behalf of herself and other members of the Newcastle Care Home Association, for a declaration that the council's standard form of agreement for the provision of social care and nursing home care was *ultra vires* and/or unreasonable.

MR GERALD MORIARTY, QC and Mr Reuben Taylor for the applicant; Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC and Mr Mark Lowe for the council.

MR JUSTICE AULD said that the council by section 2(1) of the 1948 Act, as amended by section 42 of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990, was required to make arrangements to provide residential accommodation for persons over 18 years old who were in need of care not otherwise available, as a result of age, illness, disability or any other circumstance.

By section 26(1) of the 1948 Act, as amended by section 42 of the 1990 Act and section 1 of the Community Care (Residential Accommodation) Act 1992, those arrangements might include arrangements made with a voluntary organisation with any other person who was not a local

authority; and by section 26(1A) of the 1948, as also amended, where the arrangements were for residential accommodation with both natural and personal care for persons mentioned in section 1(1) of the Registered Homes Act 1948, there was a requirement of registration.

The council was the registration authority under the 1948 Act and, with the aid of a substantial local government grant, provided by arrangement with the operators of those homes a large number of residential and nursing home care places.

Since April 1992, the council negotiated individually with each registered operator of each registered residential care home a suitable placement for each person the council wished to provide with residential or nursing care.

The council established a list of registered residential care home operators for the provision of care with whom it was prepared to contract for the provision of such accommodation.

The applicants were operators of homes registered under the 1948 Act and wished to be included on the list.

The form of contract insisted on by the council required the home to be and to remain registered under the Act, and imposed on the operator obligations additional to those imposed on him by virtue of the registration.

The applicants' concern was that the contract should not purport to conflict with the detailed and precise provisions of the 1948 Act, which they maintained it did by the mixing of statutory standards and contractual requirements in the standard form, and that it should not be uncertain as to the relationship between the two.

Mr Moriarty submitted, *inter alia*:

1 The contractual arrangements for the provision by residential care home operators for services for the council under the 1948 Act, while dependent on their registration under the 1948 Act, did not affect the operation of that Act or curtail the rights it gave to those registered under it.

2 Thus, while de-registration under the 1948 Act could affect the contract, breach of the contract by a registered home owner would not, of itself, affect registration under the Act.

The scheme of the 1948 Act, as amended, was to impose on councils a public law duty to persons whom it placed in registered residential care homes to provide them with the statutory services and a duty to their tax payers to do so economically.

3 There was no public law duty on councils to the home owners with whom they made arrangements to provide such services; the contracts were ones for public works within the meaning of section 17 of the Local Government Act 1988 into which the councils were

obliged to enter on a commercial basis.

His Lordship said that there was no reason in law why an authority should not impose a stricter contractual regime on the operators of residential care services than the 1948 Act, or *ultra vires* the 1948 Act as amended; and none of them was *Wednesbury* unreasonable [1948] 1 KB 223.

In some respects, the contract provided less draconian measures for the enforcement of its terms than did the 1948 Act in respect of registration; for example there was a provision for suspension, whereas in the 1948 Act the sole sanction was de-registration.

Where a local authority had a statutory duty to provide services and to fund them in part or in whole out of moneys provided by its taxpayers, it had to balance its duty to provide those services with its fiduciary duty to those paying for them not to waste their money.

An insistence on high contractual standards coupled with firm and economical means of enforcing them was an essential means of achieving such a balance; in addition, because of section 17 of the 1988 Act, such contracts had to be of a commercial nature.

Accordingly, neither the 1948 Act nor the 1990 Act, as amended, restrained councils, in terms of public law, in the terms of the contracts they sought to rely on when making arrangements with the operators of registered residential care homes.

Solicitors: Hammond Suddards, Leeds; Mr R. A. Stevenson, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Ex parte Guardian Newspapers and Others

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Ognall and Mr Justice Curtis

[Reasons August 27]

Where a trial judge ordered that a criminal trial be heard in camera, an application by an aggrieved person for leave to appeal, or the appeal itself against such an order would be determined by the Court of Appeal without a hearing, although written submission would be permitted from the applicant.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an application by the plaintiffs, Guardian Newspapers, Times Newspapers Ltd, News (UK) Ltd, Newspaper Publishing plc and News Group Newspapers Ltd, for leave to appeal against an order made on July 8, 1993 at the Central Criminal Court (Mr Justice Belfield) in the case of *R v Smith* that part of the trial be heard in camera and appeals from orders for such hearings and may in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of this subsection, provide that subsection (4) above shall not have effect."

MR CHARLES GRAY, QC, for the applicants; Mr David Elvin and without an hearing, are *ultra vires*.

On July 30, 1993 Mr Justice Houghton refused leave to appeal and the matter came before the Court of Appeal pursuant to section 31(3) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 so that



Intruder Justitia, the Roger Nilsson-skipped 60-footer with a multi-national European crew, shows its paces as it surfs downwind during the first leg to Punta del Este

Maxis run scared of the roaring 60s

By Barry Pickthall

THE Whitbread 60s, the new breed of light displacement yachts competing in the Whitbread Round the World Race, have come of age.

Despite the best efforts of maxi-yacht skippers to inhibit design development to the point where these 60s would, on paper, trail three days behind their own vastly more expensive 85ft monoliths, the time difference at Punta del Este, the first port of call, between New Zealand Endeavour, Grant Dalton's leading maxi, and Tokio, the first 60-footer skippered by Chris Dickson, was an uncomfortably close 3hr 7min.

Pierre Fehlmann, skipper of Merit Cup, the Swiss maxi,

who led the lobbying to clip the wings of the rival class failed to shake them off midway through this first 6,000-mile leg from Southampton. His own yacht, which cost twice as much as the 60s and carries double the sail area, was lucky to scrape home third, chased in that day by three highly competitive 60-footers. Now, few question the ability of the smaller yachts, which can surf for extended periods when the winds top 20 knots, to eclipse the maxis on the following legs down into the Roaring Forties and Furious Fifties latitudes of the southern ocean.

Dickson, still bitter at having the novel gennaker sail developed to improve Tokio's light-weather performance, banned because, according to

FINISHING POSITIONS

First stage (Southampton to Punta del Este, Uruguay): Maxi class: 1. NZ Endeavour (G Dalton, NZ) 24 days 7hr 18min; 2. Merit Cup (P Fehlmann, Switzerland); 24:15:41; 3. La Poste (D Mella, France); 25:18:03; 4. Uruguay Natural (G Vanzini, Uruguay); 28:04:43. Whitbread 60 class: 1. Intruder (C Dickson, NZ); 24:10:28; 2. Galia 83 (Pescanova, Chile); 24:10:28; 3. Yamahe (R Field, NZ); 24:21:30; 4. Winston (D

Conner, US); 24:23:49; 5. Intruder Justitia (R Nilsson, Eur); 25:02:40; 6. Dolphin & Youth Challenge (M Humphries, GB); 25:03:32; 7. Brookfield (G Mella, NZ); 25:03:33; 8. US Women's Challenge (N Frank, US); 27:19:23; 9. Herman Salskadechry (E Platon, Ukr); 28:05:32. Still at sea: 10. Odessa Moscow Times (A Verba, Ukr); 2:06:11 miles from finish.

Results issued by BT

the committee, it broke the spirit of the rules, said this week. "This is not an equal race. Every step of the way, more is being taken away from us." He also complained at the committee's decision to set a cloth weight restriction on the sails. "The sails are too light and blow out," he said. "It is not healthy to have restrictions like this, and they

add unnecessarily to the cost of a campaign."

Despite the loss of these sails, the 60-footers still carry enough area to beat the maxis boat for boat. "Above 20 knots of wind and the 60s are faster both upwind and down," Fehlmann said after the first leg. "It is only below 15 knots that the maxi have any sort of advantage."

Upwind, the weather tanks are filled with sea water to provide the equivalent of 20 men sitting on the weather rail. When they tack, the ballast is piped to the other side, and when sailing downwind it is dumped overboard, transforming the boats into lightweight yachts.

Under international off-shore rules, light-displacement yachts are penalised. So the maxis carry up to eight tons of lead in their bilges just to beat the constraints of the rule.

The irony is that quite apart from the cost of this lead, builders go to untold lengths and considerable expense to minimise the handicap by using exotic composite materials such as carbon fibre and aramid honeycombs.

Lee, the world No 101, added a run of 56 in the fifth

Threat by Irvine to take Senna to court

By Our Sports Staff

EDDIE Irvine, the Formula One racing driver, yesterday threatened to sue Ayrton Senna for throwing a punch that floored him in the aftermath of the Japanese grand prix on Sunday.

Irvine, 27, who finished a creditable sixth for the Jordan team on his Formula One debut, said he was considering taking legal action after the 33-year-old Brazilian had knocked him down during a dispute after the race.

"I've got to consider it, haven't I?" he said. "When I saw he was going to punch me, I thought, 'Oh, here's a few quick coming my way'. I don't care who he is or what he says. He doesn't worry me."

Senna must also wait to see whether any action is taken by the FIA, the sport's governing body. If the incident is reported to it, Senna could be banned from the final race of the season, the Australian grand prix in Adelaide on November 7.

If Senna were to be suspended it would devalue the contest for the runner-up position behind Prost in the world drivers' championship, virtually giving it to the Prost's colleague in the Williams-Renault team, Damon Hill, of Britain.

Irvine achieved immediate fame on Sunday with his superb drive and his plucky resistance to Senna, three times the world champion, on and off the track. He said he had no regrets about his driving or his decision to stand up to Senna.

"I was just racing hard and battling for fourth place with Damon Hill," Irvine said. "There was nothing dangerous happening and there was no need for Senna to worry. He just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and what he has been saying about me is just water off a duck's back. The guy's completely out of control."

The war of words between Senna and Irvine overshadowed a fine performance by the Ulsterman, who is a big name in Japanese motor sport but in Europe is little known outside Co Down.

Looking ahead to the Australia grand prix, Irvine added: "That's going to be quite a race and it will be interesting to see what happens there. All I really want, though, is a quiet life, so maybe I'll stick to Formula 3000 after all."

Irvine, who has homes in London, Tokyo and Macau, said he believed he earned more money driving for Team Cerumo in Japan than he could as a driver at the back of the grid in grand prix racing.

"It's no big deal for me as I feel I am in a no-win situation," he said. "I'm happy to stay in Formula 3000 and it will take a good Formula One team to make me change my mind."

Fixture schedule for 1994 will test stamina

By David Powell

ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE British athletics championship formerly the United Kingdom championships, will not be held next year. They are a casualty of the most demanding international programme which Britain's athletes have faced.

The championships, first held in 1977, are usually staged in early June but that slot has gone to the 114-year-old AAA championships, which will be staged in Sheffield for the first time.

The mid to late July period, when the AAA championships are normally held, is packed with commitments, such as the TSB Games grand prix at Crystal Palace on July 15, a match between Britain and the United States at Gateshead on July 20 and the Goodwill Games in St Petersburg from July 23 to August 7, to which Britain's world champions and world record holders, Sally Gunnell and Colin Jackson, have committed.

AAA championships winners who have attained the necessary qualifying standard will be guaranteed selection for the European championships in Helsinki from August 7 to 14, with the team likely to be named after the match against the United States at Gateshead on July 20. However, the first significant international challenge facing Britain's athletes is the European Cup in Birmingham on June 25 and 26.

Britain hosts the World Cup too, in Crystal Palace on September 9 and 10. By that time, the nation's fittest and strongest will have been through two international championships (the Commonwealth Games begin eight days after the European championships end), the AAA championships, the European Cup, the US match, the Goodwill Games, plus selected domestic and grand prix meetings.

1994 FIXTURES: Jan 7-8: Birmingham Games; 22: Pagan Games GB v Russia; Glasgow; Feb 4-5: AAA Championships; Birmingham; 5: Austria v England v Czech; Vienna; 12: McDonald's International; GB v USA; Glasgow; 22: TSB International; Birmingham; March 11-12: European Indoor Championships; Paris; 26: World Cup; Sheffield; 27: Commonwealth Games; Glasgow; April 17: Nutrena World; London; May 15: São Paulo Grand Prix; 22: New York GP; 28: São Paulo GP; 29: Osaka GP; 30: Göteborg GP; June 25-26: European Cup; Birmingham; July 15: TSB Games; 20: Gateshead; 23-27: Goodwill Games; St Petersburg; August 7-14: European Championships; Helsinki; 11-12: AAA Championships; Sheffield; 18: Poland v GB in Germany v Russia; London; 20: Commonwealth Games; 25-26: European Cup; Birmingham; 28-29: Commonwealth Games; Glasgow; September 9-10: World Cup; Crystal Palace; 15: TSB Games; 22: Pagan Games; 29: Commonwealth Games; Glasgow; October 7-14: European Championships; Helsinki; 11-12: AAA Championships; Sheffield; 18: Poland v GB in Germany v Russia; London; 20: Commonwealth Games; 25-26: European Cup; Birmingham; 28-29: Commonwealth Games; Glasgow; November 7: Australian Grand Prix; Adelaide.

Lewis gains first from Oxford

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

LENNOX Lewis has achieved another first. He will be the first boxer to talk to the Oxford Union. The World Boxing Council heavyweight champion and his manager, Frank Maloney, will be telling the students about "motivation and success" tomorrow night.

Maloney said: "Lennox and I are very excited about this. It is the most exciting thing that has happened to me since I signed Lennox. It is marvelous to think that all the bosses — future bosses — and brains of Britain will be there. Lennox is the first boxer to be invited and for the first time a

British world heavyweight champion and his manager will be there.

"It is a great honour for Lennox because it is recognition, from such a famous university, when you think of all the great politicians and distinguished people, like Margaret Thatcher, who were invited to talk to the Oxford Union."

The president of the union, Toby Lewis, was equally delighted that the champion had accepted his invitation. A crowd far in excess of the 1,300 capacity is expected.

"We've never had a world

heavyweight champion," the president said. "We had so many letters from members asking for Lennox Lewis. When we were announcing the names of the people on our list, Michael Foot, Cecil Parkinson and we mentioned Lennox Lewis, everybody gasped. They could not believe he was coming. We even had people joining to come along tomorrow."

Maloney will address the union on "motivation and success," a subject of his own choosing and Lewis will answer questions for one hour. The meeting starts at 8.30.

Lee designs to top standard

By Phil Yates

STEPHEN Lee, overshadowed as a teenage snooker prospect by both Ronnie O'Sullivan and John Higgins, illustrated the strength in depth of the game's youth by reaching the quarter-finals of the Skoda grand prix with a 5-2 victory over Neal Foulds in Reading yesterday.

Although Lee, aged 19, of Trowbridge, completed a unique double last year by capturing both the British Junior and English amateur titles, his progress in the professional ranks has not been as well chronicled as that of O'Sullivan or Higgins.

The reason could lie in their relative approaches to the game, with Lee, as solid and steady as he is, not the most free-flowing player at times. However, against Foulds it was difficult to level any criticism as Lee's break-building was of the highest standard and his safety more than adequate.

Foulds, down to 29th in the provisional world rankings, won the first frame with a green-to-pink clearance but segregated only 17 points in the following three.

Lee, the world No 101, added a run of 56 in the fifth

frame, but missed the last red. Foulds cleared with 31 to win it on the black for 2-3, but the setback did not affect his inexperienced opponent, who compiled a 120 in the sixth to reopen a two-frame lead at 4-2.

After finishing with contributions of 37 and 45 in the seventh, Lee was surprisingly unexcited. "It was solid snooker with no fluffs and hardly any mistakes," he said.

Lee meets Steve Davis, the six-time world and United Kingdom champion in the quarter-finals tomorrow.

RESULTS: Third round: S Lee (Eng) bt N Foulds (Eng), 5-2.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND INTER-CITY CHAMPIONSHIP: First division:	ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND INTER-CITY CHAMPIONSHIP: Second division:
1. Dundee 11, 2. Aberdeen 10, 3. Celtic 9, 4. Rangers 8, 5. Hearts 7, 6. St Johnstone 6, 7. Motherwell 5, 8. Inverness 4, 9. Kilmarnock 3, 10. Stirling Albion 2, 11. Forth Wanderers 1.	1. Dundee 11, 2. Aberdeen 10, 3. Celtic 9, 4. Rangers 8, 5. Hearts 7, 6. St Johnstone 6, 7. Motherwell 5, 8. Inverness 4, 9. Kilmarnock 3, 10. Stirling Albion 2, 11. Forth Wanderers 1.
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Northampton & Paisley Manager. Second division:

Avalley v Lewes; Thames v Hove; Tisbury v Exeter. Third division: Cove v Bradford, Hove v Exeter, Hove v Tisbury, Tisbury v Exeter. First round: Sutton United v Purfleet.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier division:

Blackburn v Bolton; Bolton v Burnley; Bradford City v Bradford City; Bradford City v

Fencing hopes poll result will point way to prosperity



Sheen, the last British Olympic gold medalist

British fencing stands *en garde* today, awaiting the result of the election of the Amateur Fencing Association (AFA) president. It is a critical moment in the sport's history.

The new president faces a host of problems from inside and outside the sport. The successful candidate must reconcile conflicting bodies, increase membership, rekindle Olympic success, improve the sport's image and satisfy the Sports Council that British fencing has a healthy future.

The Sports Council has threatened that unless changes in the AFA are made, its grant will be in jeopardy. Of its total grant of £700,000 over the next four years, £60,000 is conditional on the implementation of "a proper performance and excellence strategy". The Sports Council is particularly concerned because the AFA receives more money per rata for its number of members (4,500) than any other national governing body.

The Sports Council has also criticised the "autonomy" of the five individual weapons committees — three for the men (épée, foil and sabre) and two for the women, who do not fight

sabre — and the "potential for duplication". It is worried that taxpayers' money could be wasted.

However, the AFA has not been blind to the deficiencies and has asked the British Olympic Association and the Sports Council to help investigate how it can achieve international success.

Recent results have been dismal compared to the Fifties and Sixties, when Britain had a series of Olympic successes. Gillian Sheen was the last gold medalist, in the foil in 1956; no medal has been won in the Games since Henry Hoskins took silver in the épée in 1964 and none in the senior world championships since 1965. At the world championships this year only one Briton reached the last 32 of an event, curiously the sabre, a discipline in which Britain has traditionally been less expert than either the foil or épée.

However, Fiona McIntosh did reach the last eight in the 1992 Olympic foil competition, there has been some success at junior level and Britain can boast the staging of the Martini tournament, one of the most distinguished international events.

Fencing has traditionally been strong at public schools,

John Goodbody reports on a sport looking for a way to recapture former glories against a backdrop of internal division

Oxford University and in the services, too narrow a base to produce Olympic medal-winners in the Nineties. The sport in Britain is regarded as old-fashioned and while efforts have been made to broaden its appeal, the number of competitors remains too low and a system of identifying and nurturing talent is lacking.

The need for a new AFA president has arisen with the retirement of Nick Halsted, a member of the last British team to win a medal at the senior world championships, after seven-and-a-half years because of ill-health. The result will be announced today, the 1,800 full members having voted for three candidates from different areas of the sport.

Penny Spink, 55, from Devon, is seen as the "establishment figure", a description that surprises her but one that is due to Halsted having nominated her. She is also more accurately described as the representative of the regions, which have often felt

that London has dominated fencing. Another provincial candidate is Henry De Silva, 60, a retired lecturer from Leicester. Regarded as the outsider in the voting, De Silva has the backing of veteran fencers because of his success in promoting their area of the sport.

James Chambers, 51, from London, is a former Northern Ireland international who has organised the Martini tournament. He has support from most involved in international fencing and the majority of the influential British Academy of Fencing (BAF).

The BAF, a professional fencing teachers' organisation, has its origins in the Corporation of Masters of Defence, which was originally granted letters patent by Henry VIII and has claims to be the first governing body established for a sport in Britain. But the BAF has been at odds with Allan Skipp, the AFA director of coaching and development.

One of Skipp's main tasks, from a base in Nottingham, is to train amateur coaches to develop the sport. But while BAF members have produced many leading competitors at their own clubs, some of the older ones have been criticised for failing to adapt to the athletic requirements of modern fencing, in which physical condition and mental preparation are playing an increasing part.

It is not only that, Richard Cohen, a member of the Britain sabre team at three Olympic Games, said: "It is amazing that we now host three world-class competitions and we constantly have large foreign entries, but we are lucky if we get three professional coaches to watch. Sometimes we have none at all."

The new president will have to resolve the bickering between the AFA and the BAF, which run their own achievement award schemes almost as if they are rival governing bodies.

Mike Joseph, the BAF honorary secretary, denied that members of his 14-strong organisation did not attend important events in this country. He added: "The breakdown in unity between the BAF and the AFA deepened

when the AFA withdrew support from the joint coaching committee." Although private negotiations subsequently began between the two presidents, they were halted by the ill-health of Halsted. Joseph said: "The BAF is eager to resolve existing problems."

He considers that Britain's lack of success in high level competition derives from the AFA's insistence on a "truly amateur status for our competitors."

"Our fencers have to work, obtain funding, train and compete. This is not conducive to producing top level performance. Our counterparts overseas, like Germany, provide full funding for their fencers, employ full-time managers to oversee training and selection, and proper funding for their coaches."

"Unless there is a change in attitude we will not achieve the results our fencers and coaches deserve."

Joseph is not alone in wanting to see a few outstanding individuals financially backed by the AFA while they practise full-time fencers, employ full-time managers to oversee training and selection, and proper funding for their coaches. Germany supported Arnd Schmitt while he delayed qualifying as a dentist and he won Olympic épée titles in 1988 and 1992.

Japan turn up the heat with victory over South Korea

IF TEMPERATURES can be raised in the desert, then the Asian World Cup qualifying matches in Qatar have done so. Results yesterday, a surprise 1-0 victory by Japan over South Korea and the 2-1 win for Iran over North Korea, mean that with all the contestants scheduled to play their final match on Thursday, five of the six teams are still in contention for the two places in the 1994 finals in the United States.

There will be prayers in Washington that Iraq, with their cheerleaders carrying posters of Saddam Hussein, will be eliminated in their last match, by Japan.

The Japanese also carry mass support, notably for Kazuyoshi Miura. A native Japanese, and not one of the Brazilian-born players naturalised for this assault on the World Cup, Miura struck the winning goal against South Korea in the 59th minute yesterday. It was a goal that completed Japan's remarkable transformation from bottom to top of this qualifying frenzy over four games in Doha.

Never mind America, the World Cup of 2002 will in all probability be in Japan. The new, ten-club professional J-League is sold out for every match, and the Dutch manager of the Japan national team, Hans Ooft, said: "In Japan, they are either crying or laughing, either sky-high or very low."

Now Japan face the equivalent of pistols at dawn against Iraq, who are overseen by Saddam's son. He has already sent home one team manager and replaced him with a soldier who owns five houses, rewards for previous sporting successes.

Amo Baba, 59, can only guess what his prize might be if he can direct Iraq to victory over Japan and thus embarrass the United States state department.

More embarrassment is scheduled when the two Koreans meet in Doha, also on Thursday. The North, the only team which cannot qualify,



ROB HUGHES

Overseas Football

has one task left: to destroy the ambitions and the expectations of their wealthier and ideologically opposed cousins from the South.

If there is to be an Arab team representing Asia, Saudi Arabia have to beat Iran. After they could only draw against Iraq on Sunday, their Brazilian coach of 10 months, Jose Candido, became the second managerial casualty of this tournament, replaced by a native Saudi. Obviously Candido, whose playing reputation was that, among Brazilians, he could best mark

WORLD CUP									
ASIAN ZONE: Final qualifying round	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Japan	4	2	1	1	5	2	5		
Saudi Arabia	4	1	2	0	4	3	5		
South Korea	4	1	2	1	6	4	4		
Iraq	4	1	1	1	7	7	4		
Iran	4	2	0	2	5	7	4		
North Korea	4	1	0	3	5	9	2		

Top two qualify for finals

MATCHES TO COME: Oct 28: Iraq v Japan, South Korea v North Korea, Saudi Arabia v Iran.

Pele, found the heat too overpowering; and now the Saudis, a team built on defence and unbeaten, have to keep out Ali Daai, the Iran forward who has hit four of his team's five goals.

Australia, who on Sunday play Argentina in Sydney in the first leg of their home and away World Cup decider against Argentina, effectively suspended their immigration laws to allow Diego Maradona into the country.

Argentina need this flawed, and thrice retired, thrice resurrected performer, following their 5-0 defeat by Colombia in Buenos Aires last month.

Maradona, who has reportedly lost weight thanks to the dietary and sauna treatments he indulges in, may need more than a "hand of God" goal to

raise his nation now. The Australians intend to be tough. Their coach, Eddie Thomson, a Scot, said as soon as the fixture became a reality: "Argentina will be bigger and meaner than ever against us after being devastated by the Colombians. But I'm still delighted we are going to play them, and I feel having the home game first suits us because the distance and travel could affect the Argentinians."

Thomson also predicted that his side would be at full strength, that he could not see any of his European-based players refusing to play this one. His finger pointed towards Mark Bosnich, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, who "retired" rather than answer Australia's call in a previous qualifying match.

Sure enough, Bosnich will be there, jeopardising his position at Villa in view of his rivalry with Nigel Spink, but fulfilling a dream of trying to block out Maradona. The final twist in Maradona's tortuous relationships with law and order is still unravelled.

While he is training in Sydney, a tribunal in Rome has ordered yet another High Court case against him following allegations by his former bodyguard, Pietro Pugliese, relating to possession and importation of cocaine.

Maradona, found guilty by an Italian court in his absence two years ago, and sentenced to 14 months in prison, will of course not go back to Italy. But also found guilty and effectively pardoned because of his fame in Argentina, he now finds that a third country which supposedly closes its doors to all convicted drug offenders, makes an exception of him. The law of the genius.



Maradona in training in Sydney for Argentina's match against Australia on Sunday

Another black day for kings of the red card

David Miller on the oaf mentality behind

Wimbledon's latest slide into discredit

IT WOULD seem that Wimbledon football club are proud of behaving in a manner similar to the minority of jobs on the terraces who bring discredit to football. That can be the only conclusion from the attitude of players and officials as observed in last Friday's television documentary, *The London Programme*.

The tone of the programme, in my opinion, makes Wimbledon guilty of further bringing the game into disrepute, punishable under FA regulations. The club has already suffered substantial fines for its misbehaviour on the field.

To the dismay of all those deeply concerned about the image of football in England, on or off the pitch, the documentary appeared to attempt to justify, with the willing collaboration of the club, Wimbledon's dismal disciplinary record on the field, and the perverse satisfaction of the players and manager in behaving at times like oafs.

The reaction of the players to winning the FA Cup in 1988, by defeating Liverpool, was to drop their trousers in public at best an infantile nursery antic, at worst insulting. Now they were to be seen doing the same, specifically for the benefit of cameras, and finding it hugely amusing. To them, Not 1 suspect, for many viewers.

On the previous occasion, Sam Hammam, the financial power behind the club, invited me to his Mayfair office to discuss ways in which the club might improve its public image. The evidence since then suggests Hammam has done little, if anything, to make Wimbledon more worthy representatives of the game at the highest level.

For Hammam to say that Wimbledon are representative of "the small man" is demeaning of the small man. It suggests he understands neither the game nor the English character. Wilful oafish behaviour reveals an anarchic attitude towards authority, and does nothing to endear the club to any but the few who equate physical boorishness with moral strength.

Wimbledon's disciplinary

record is representative only of the trend that has diminished the standing, and standards, of the English game. To pretend that their behaviour demonstrates a spirit of solidarity within the club deceives only themselves.

Nor is the picture of internal harmony, which they wished to present to the viewer, at an inarticulate dinner, wholly accurate. The fracas at the training ground between Fashanu and Sanchez is well documented and hardly the epitome of camaraderie.

As for the torrent of oaths and blasphemy pouring from Joe Kinnear, the manager, as witnessed in the dressing room, it is hardly surprising that the players go on to the field to perform some of the coarsest football in the Premiership. I would be more concerned to protect young schoolboys from a wish to emulate Wimbledon's football style than from Kinnear's banal language, which was a barrack-room parody.

At one time it did seem that Wimbledon were attempting to develop more intelligent players and a coherent style. The *London Programme* served only as disillusionment. Stanley Reed, Wimbledon's veteran chairman, and his fellow directors should feel ashamed.



Hammam: demeaning

Halifax relish reversal of role in FA Cup

By Walter Gammie

SURPRISE would probably not be the right word were the likes of Yeovil Town, Enfield, Slough Town and Farnborough Town to make further progress at the expense of Endsleigh Insurance League clubs in the first round of the FA Cup for which the draw was made yesterday. Yet one non-League football club will especially revel in the role of underdogs after years of being prey to hungry part-timers.

Halifax Town, after being beaten by non-League clubs in the Cup in four of the past five seasons, fell into the GM Vauxhall Conference last season. They meet West Bromwich Albion, one of the two first division clubs in the draw, with Bolton Wanderers, at the Shay on Sunday, November 14.

The absence of FA Carling Premiership action because of the England match in San

Marino should guarantee the Cup healthy attention.

Such is the despondency at Halifax's poor start in the Conference that Peter Wragg, the manager, ventured: "I don't know whether I will still be here then," before saying: "the draw has certainly given me a lift, the players a lift and I hope the whole town."

Yeovil, who beat Torquay United and Hereford United on their way to third-round defeat by Arsenal last year, will line up struggling Fulham, of the second division, as League victim No 17. Enfield, steered by Graham Roberts, the player-manager, will set their sights on Cardiff City. Torquay United will supply

FIRST-ROUND DRAW

Grave v Darlington
Salford City v Leek Town v Wigan
Port Vale v Blackpool
Wilton Albion v Lincoln City
Rushmore v Hull City
Hull City v West Bromwich Albion
(Sunday, Nov 14)
Telford United v Huddersfield Town
Widnes v Walsall
Rotherham United v Stockport County
Mansfield Town v Preston NE
Chesham v Rochdale
Scarborough v Bury
Macclesfield Town v Hartlepool Rovers
Bedford City v Chester City
Windsor United v Grays v Bolton W
Accrington Stanley v Southport
Shrewsbury Town v Doncaster Rovers
Stafford v Kidderley v Carlisle Utd
Barnley v York City
Colchester v Whitby v Marnes
Colchester v Sutton Utd or Moreton Town

Enfield v Cardiff
Slough Town v Torquay United
Yeovil v Gillingham
Northampton Town v Bromsgrove Rovers
VS Rugby or Hove Borough v Brentford
Marine v Plymouth Argyle
Metropolitan Police v Crawley Town
Bristol Rovers v Wycombe Wanderers
Yeovil Town v Fulham (Monday, Nov 15)
Molesey or Tooley v Macclesfield
Chesham Town or Bath City
Swansea City v Merton Borough
Woking v Wotton-under-Edge
Nordenminster Rovers v Kidderley Town
Woking v Wotton-under-Edge
Cambridge City or Dagenham v
Rochdale v Hereford United
Barnes v Basingstoke or Canisdon Athletic
Bournemouth v Brighton
Farnborough Town v Exeter City
Leiston United v Grays and Northfleet
Matches to be played on November 13

the opposition for Les Briley in his new role as the Slough player-manager. Another Devon side, Exeter City, will tread warily at Cherrywood Road where Torquay fell two years to a Farnborough side that went on to play West Ham in the third round.

Gravesend and Northfleet will be looking to one of the hottest strikers in the non-League game when they travel to Leyton Orient. Steve Portway, 25, rattled in 63 goals last season, including 53 in the Beazer Homes League southern division.

Injury cost Portway the start of the season, but he has now scored ten in 14 matches, including two in the 3-1 win at Watfordville in the fourth qualifying round. Gary Aldous, his manager, said: "Not one club has come in for him. I don't know what he has to do." A couple of goals at Brisbane Road might help. Although Yeading won the FA

Vase in 1990 and sold Andrew Impy to Queens Park Rangers immediately afterwards, playing Gillingham in the first round of the Cup is another milestone for a club that barely attracts 200 supporters. "Every season a non-League team seems to hit the jackpot," Peter Spurden, the Diadora League chairman, said. "From now on it's luck. On paper Gillingham should beat us, but at home, it's got to be winnable."

Moreton Town, from the Gloucestershire town of Moreton-in-Marsh, population 3,000, will run out in their fourth-qualifying round replay against Sutton United tonight dreaming of a first first-round appearance at Colchester United. A calming influence on a fevered night for the Hellenic League club will be Mark Lawrenson, 36, the former Republic of Ireland and Liverpool player, playing a stately role as sweeper.

Norwich remain in bloom

NORWICH City's transformation into one of the most admired and envied football clubs in the country can be traced back to a sunny August afternoon last year. Trailing 2-0 to Arsenal at Highbury well into the second half, they won 4-2 to launch a remarkable rise which now sees them blazing a trail across Europe (Keith Pike writes).

It was Mike Walker's first victory unsung Canaries, and tonight he returns to north London for a Coca-Cola Cup third-round tie which should re-emphasise how far Norwich have come in such a short time under his stewardship.

Arsenal may be the holders and unbeaten in their last eight matches, but it says much for Norwich's reputation that the bookmakers are offering short odds against an away victory, despite the absence of both Robins and

Ekoku, their strikers, through injury. Polston is also missing from the Norwich defence.

The clubs meet again on Saturday in an FA Carling Premiership match before re-adjusting their sights for a resumption of their respective European campaigns next week. Arsenal taking a 3-0 lead to Belgium for the second leg of their Cup-Winners' Cup tie against Standard, Liege, and Norwich preparing for the biggest night in their history as they look to defend a 2-1 lead against Bayern Munich in the UEFA Cup.

Their meeting tonight is one of three all-Premiership ties. Manchester City, whose form since Brian Horton replaced Peter Reid as manager — one defeat in nine matches — has quelled much anxiety on the terraces at Maine Road, are at home to Chelsea, while Oldham Athletic entertain Coventry City.

Much attention, though,

will focus on the three Endsleigh Insurance League sides that eliminated Premiership opposition over two legs in the last round. Shrewsbury, having beaten Southampton, can hardly be expected to repeat the feat against Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park, but Blackpool, conquerors of Sheffield United, have every chance at home to Peterborough.

Sunderland, who beat Leeds United twice, will fancy their chances against Aston Villa at Roker Park, particularly as Dean Saunders is likely to miss his first match since moving to Villa 14 months ago. The Wales striker has chicken pox. Villa have said they will consider offers of around £1.5 million for Neil Cox, their unsettled England under-21 defender.

Sheffield United have made a £400,000 offer for Norway's left-back, Roger Nilsen, of Viking Stavanger.

Davies plays central role in season of rising stars

BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (11065)
7.00 Breakfast News (6198258)
9.05 Kitchen Topical discussion (s) (2165274)
9.45 Newsround. News quiz (4563662)
10.00 News (CeeFax) regional news and weather (4034317) 10.05 Playdays (s) (7766355)
10.30 Good Morning... With Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine series (s) (8761826)
12.15 Pebble Mill. Judi Spliers chats to opera singer Lesley Garrett (387997) 12.55 Regional News and weather (2357065)
1.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (55336)
1.30 Newsround. (CeeFax) (s) (5584362) 1.50 Going For Gold with Henry Kelly (s) (6654978)
2.15 Rugby Union. Live coverage of the match between the Midlands and the mighty All Blacks. Introduced by Chris Rea with commentators Nigel Starmer-Smith and Paul Addord (488571)
3.55 Moomin Animation (783121) 4.20 Spaceways (s) (2893355) 4.35 What's That Noise? (s) (6668862)
5.00 Newsround (2318713) 5.10 Byker Grove (CeeFax) (1584048)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (CeeFax) (s) (512423)
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Andrew Harvey and Moira Stuart (CeeFax) and weather (133)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (713)
7.00 Heartbeat. Gold. Ewan and Mike Smith present awards to people who have performed outstanding acts of courage and kindness, including a 13-year-old girl who has raised more than £10,000 for cancer research. (CeeFax) (5404). Wales: Six of One (CeeFax) (997)
8.00 Children's Hospital. More drama from the wards of Sheffield Children's Hospital, including an emergency Caesarean and a little boy's lengthy operation to correct his talipes, or club foot. (CeeFax) (s) (4152)
8.30 A Question of Sport. Ian Botham enlists the help of footballer Dennis and rugby's Ben Clarke to take on Bill Beaumont's team of last season. Malcolm and golfer Tiger Johnson. (CeeFax) (s) (8189)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (1423)



Neil Pearson is on the beat (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Between the Lines: Honourable Men. When a senior politician is caught with his pants down, suspicion falls on his police minders. As the tabloids reveal more, Tony Clark (Neil Pearson) realises that someone's head must roll. But whose? (CeeFax) (s) (212171) Wales: Week in Wales (CeeFax) (s) (212171)
10.20 Omnibus: Houdini. (CeeFax) (s) (348220) Wales: Between the Lines 10.50 Omnibus 11.40 Hearts of Gold 12.10am-1.45 Film: Jailhouse Rock
11.10 FILM: Jailhouse Rock (1957, b/w) starring Elvis Presley at his best. Jailed for manslaughter, 'The King' is taught to play the guitar by his cellmate. After he is freed, he starts a record company and a new star is born. Directed by Richard Thorpe (726868)
12.45am Weather (562350) Ends at 12.50
2.15 BBC Select: Executive Business Club. Scrambled (501076) 3.15 Legal Network Television (91447) 4.00 BBC Legal Network Television. (91027) 4.30 Close.

BBC2

- 8.00 Breakfast News (9285930) 8.15 Westminster (5261355) 9.00 Reviving Antiques. Restoring oil paintings (s) (8971423)
9.05 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus for children. 1.20 The Brollies (6008201) 1.35 Dilly the Dinosaur (7872371)
2.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (2677274) 2.05 You and Me (r) (8853160) 2.15 Under Sail. A look at Shamrock V, the largest single-masted vessel in the world (r) (8854171) 2.30 See Heart (r) (s) (665)
3.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (5313046) 3.05 Westminster Live (CeeFax) (721131) 3.50 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (1487610)
4.00 Snooker. Action from the New Skoda grand prix (s) (61666794)



A new series of delectable delights (6.55pm)

- 6.55 Food and Drink. Chef and restaurateur Kevin Woodford selects unsuspecting shoppers in a Liverpool supermarket and goes home to cook for them. (s) (286997)
7.25 Assignment: My Homeland, Your Homeland. As the euphoria over the recent peace agreement between Israel and the PLO fades, what are the long-term hopes for peace? To assess the prospects, Israeli novelist Amos Oz and exiled Palestinian academic Hisham Sharabi travel throughout Israel. It was Sharabi's first visit to his birthplace since 1947. Together, they introduce each other to places they would never be able to meet alone. Oz meets Palestinian militants while Sharabi penetrates the heart of Jewish orthodoxy. (656930)
8.10 The Booker Prize. A Life Show special live from London's Guildhall on this year's competition. Sarah Dunant and Tracey Macleod discuss the six short-listed novels with Germaine Greer, Tom Paulin and Victoria Glenfield. (807201)
9.00 The Snell of Reeves and Mortimer. Wacky humour from Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer in the last of the series. (CeeFax) (s) (9005)
9.30 Cracking the Code: The Body Invaders. Flu strikes and kills every winter because its cause is a 'quick change' virus. The moment a vaccine is created, the virus or relative is in a different genetic form. (CeeFax) (s) (210713)
10.20 10x10: Sir Ann's Big Boy. Former Dr Who Sylvester McCoy presents the sad story of Angus MacAskill, the world's tallest man, who was born in the Western Isles in 1825 and toured North America and Europe with his partner Tom Thumb as part of PT Barnum's circus. (CeeFax) (971065)
10.30 Newsnight (235291)
11.15 The Late Show includes an interview with the Booker Prize winner, announced earlier this evening (s) (372607) 11.55 Weather (502526)
12.00 Snooker. Highlights (s) (121802) Ends 1.45
2.00am - 3.40 Night School: Mathematics (C32992)

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CHOICE



The plight of Iraq's marsh Arabs (11.20pm)

Viewpoint 93: Saddam's Killing Fields (11.20pm) (Scottish 10.40pm)
Michael Wood reports from the Middle East on a massacre that the Western media has largely ignored. In the wake of the Gulf war the marsh Arabs of southern Iraq rose against their persecutor, Saddam Hussein. The revenge was savage and according to one estimate 300,000 people were killed in a couple of months. This was not the end of it. After the uprising was crushed Saddam embarked on a systematic policy of burning, shelling, deportation and poisoning of waters. The marshes themselves are being drained. Wood makes the point that in contrast to the Kurds, there were no television pictures to prick Western consciences. It is suggested that the marsh Arabs are as much to blame as Saddam himself.

Omnibus Houdini (11.20pm) (Scottish: Thursday 8.30pm)
The life of the escapologist Harry Houdini is recreated in a mixture of old-time variety show and This Is Your Life, with a top-hatted Joe Mella as master of ceremonies. For a man who made his living out of escapes, Houdini is an odd character. Houdini himself appears only fleetingly, on scraps of archive film shot before his premature death in 1926. But one of his woman assistants has survived to offer her memories and there is no shortage of witnesses who knew people who knew him. Houdini was a Hungarian Jew whose family emigrated to the United States when he was two. It is suggested that his delaying escapes gave a message to other immigrants that they, too, could triumph over the odds.

Without Walls (Channel 4, 9.00pm)
Lord Keith, played by Timothy West looking like Patrick Moore, returns to the BBC to discover what has happened to his beloved creation. He is not impressed. The Proms are still there but otherwise the Royal Albert Hall is a different place. Keith seems to have been replaced by a dreadful policy of giving the audience what it wants. Jack Emery's film sets up a lively debate, though Keith was a long time ago and it is a bit like getting Disraeli to comment on the modern Conservative party. The other Without Walls item is a reevaluation of Stanley Kubrick's controversially violent film, A Clockwork Orange, which has been banned from British cinemas on the grounds that the director ever since his original showing 20 years ago.

Pirates and Emperors: Who is the Terrorist? (Channel 4, 11.00pm)
In a stimulating symposium presented without commentary, politicians and academics reflect on the nature of terrorism and chip away at some of the accepted notions. One is that terrorism is perpetrated by individuals, when state terror, such as the Holocaust and the Nazi regime, is the real terror. Another is that the United States in Panama, Grenada and Nicaragua. Much of the discussion is about Northern Ireland. Gerry Adams of Sinn Féin uses the familiar argument that one person's terrorist is another person's freedom fighter and cites De Valera, Mugabe, Arafat and Mandela. On a different track an American feminist, Robin Morgan, links terrorism with the assertion of male power. Peter Waymark.

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 GMTV (6355526)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep. Game show set in a supermarket (s) (500777) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (774275)
10.00 The Time... The Place... Topical studio discussion (s) (172704)
10.35 This Morning. Weekday magazine (8765505) 11.20 London Today (Teletext) and weather (284375)
12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (4997423)
12.55 Emmerdale (r). (4905442) 1.25 Home and Away. (Teletext) (3215777) 1.55 A Country Practice (68649317)
2.20 News (1427784) 2.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (1562705)
2.30 Gardeners' Diary. Seasonal gardening hints. (572) 3.00 The Young Doctors. Drama serial sent in Scotland (s) (8971423)
3.30 The Builders (897987) 3.40 Tots TV (s) (1485152) 3.50 Cartoon (1481336) 4.00 The Raggy Dolls (s) (284559) 4.15 Captain Zed and the Zee Zone (r) (s) (3347775) 4.40 Children's Ward (Teletext) (s) (823526)
5.10 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (104997)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Teletext) and weather (113201)
6.00 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (72442) 7.00 Emmerdale. Customers at the Woolpack are shocked by Anna's hen party (Teletext) (4013)
7.30 Beattie and the Sainsbury Private Investigators. Roger Beattie and Denis Da Silva expose the mess left behind by the Dangerous Dogs Act of 1991, designed to wipe out the American pit bull terrier (715)



Painful discoveries for Gary Whelan (8.00pm)

- 8.00 The Bill: The Green-Eyed Monster. When a woman's body is found, Haines (Gary Whelan) uncovers some unexpected and painful secrets from the victim's past. (Teletext) (8220)
8.30 The Hypnotic World of Paul McKenna. Volunteers from the studio audience lose all their inhibitions and discover they have hidden comedy talents. (s) (8355)
9.00 Soldier: Soldier. Hard Knocks. Lieutenant Kate Butler finds being the only woman in the regiment is not easy, but she is determined to prove herself. However, she is thrown by a complicated romance. In the ranks, Fusilier Roberts, facing his own challenge in the boxing ring, has something to prove. (Teletext) (s) (7713)
10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald. (Teletext) and weather (555797)
10.40 Carlton Sport. Football action from the Coca-Cola Cup matches (575672)
11.20 Viewpoint 93: Saddam's Killing Fields. (Teletext) (s) (119065)
12.00am Prisoner: Cell Block H. Beatrix to stop the clock. Sonia from taking over. (925466)
1.10 The Last Picture Show. Film and video review (634094)
2.10 Stephen King's World of Horror - Volume 1. Meet the modern masters of horror films (9042466)
3.00 Haunted Hollywood (r) (28176)
4.00 The Best (r) (s) (5192)
5.00 Riviera. French crime serial (33466)
5.30 ITN Morning News (55027). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.30 Jayce and the Wheeled Warriors. Animated adventures (r). (27055)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (45959)
9.00 You Bet Your Life (r) (s) (31807)
9.30 Schools: Eureka! (4568317) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (413178) 10.00 The German Programme (7750784) 10.25 Peace and People (5008220) 10.44 Good Health (4024174) 11.00 Science in Focus (1274220) 11.22 Stage One (4384775) 11.40 How We Used to Live (8729775)
12.00 House to House. Maya Even focuses on the day's political news and takes a look behind the scenes at the Palace of Westminster (44171)
12.30 Sesame Street. Cab Calloway is the guest (67201) 1.30 Alfred J. Kwak. Cartoon adventures of a musical duck (r). (61336)
2.00 FILM: Under Your Hat (1940, b/w) starring Jack Hulbert as fussy Courtneys. Musical comedy about an entertainer who also works as a secret agent. He finds his marriage in trouble when he is assigned to shadow a beautiful foreign spy. Directed by Maurice Elvey (58201)
3.30 The Times World Chess Championship. Live coverage of the Speed Chess Challenge between Garry Kasparov and Britain's Nigel Short who have to complete their moves in 20 minutes each (27171) (Teletext) (s) (978)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Is it an abuse of power for university teachers to date their students? Professors who believe it is face libel-minded lecturers and students who disagree. Oprah referees between irate parents, their children, academics and members of the audience. (75515)
5.50 Laurel and Hardy. Animation (861539)
6.00 Mark and Mandy. American comedy series starring Robin Williams and Pam Dawber (r) (171)
6.30 Roseanne. Roseanne becomes obsessed with playing bingo in the hope of winning big money (r). (Teletext) (s) (423)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow (Teletext) and weather (563826)
7.50 Comment from three window cleaners (160930)
8.00 The Times World Chess Championship. Highlights of the Speed Chess Challenge (7882)
8.30 Check Out 93. Carole Peters investigates the secretive world of MPs' interests and the way firms and pressure groups pay for influence at Westminster (s) (8997)



Timothy West as Reith of the BBC (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Without Walls: Forbidden Fruit and Reith to the Nation (42201)
10.00 Armistead Maupin's Tales of the City. Last in the new five-part series of adventures with the residents of 28 Barbary Lane in 1970s San Francisco. Starring Olympia Dukakis. (Teletext) (8442)
11.00 Pirates and Emperors: Who is the Terrorist? (s) (63423)
12.00 The Times World Chess Championship. Analysis of the Speed Chess Challenge (697396)
12.30am Atlatley and the Jazz Messengers. Performance from the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, with Wynton Marsalis on trumpet and Branford Marsalis on baritone sax (r). (s) (1893379). Ends at 1.40

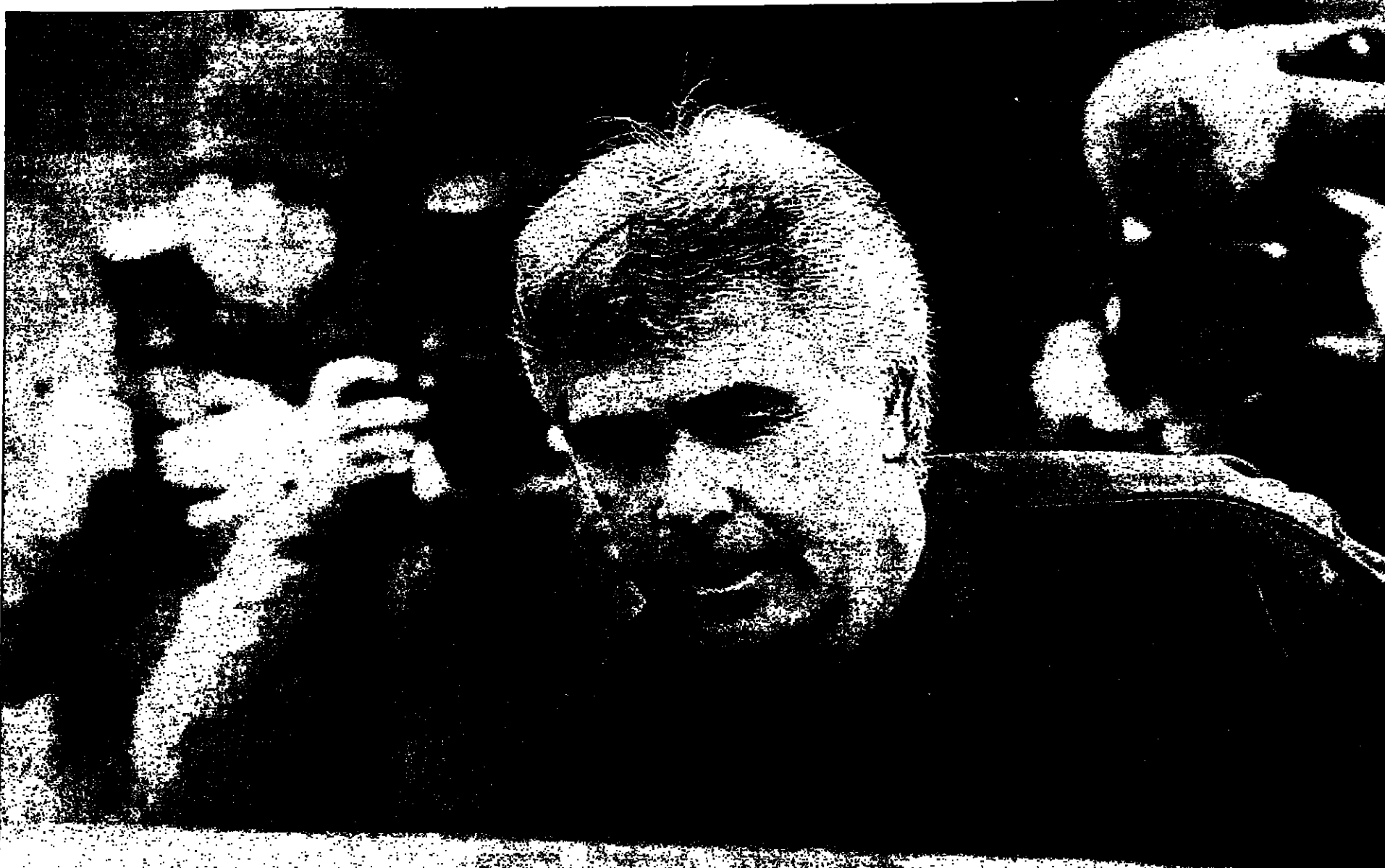
RADIO 1

- FM Stereo and MW 4.00am Bruno Brookes with the Early Breakfast Show (FM only) 7.00am Mike Godwin 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Jack Blackmore 5.00am Steve Wright in the Afternoon 6.00 News 7.30am Evening Session with Jo Wiley and Steve Lamacq 8.00am Mike Music: Soul: Soul as Dead with Jonathan King (9.00) 10.00am Mark Radcliffe 12.00am-1.00am Lynn Parsons (FM only)

RADIO 2

- FM Stereo 5.00am Sarah Kennedy with The Early Show 8.15am Pauline for Thought 7.05am Terry Wogan 8.15am Pauline for Thought 8.30am Ken Bruce 11.00am Johnnie Walker with the Big Breakfast 12.00am-1.00am Steve Wright 1.00am-2.00am Johnnie Walker with the Big Breakfast 2.00am-3.00am Steve Wright 3.00am-4.00am Johnnie Walker with the Big Breakfast 4.00am-5.00am Steve Wright 5.00am-6.00am Johnnie Walker with the Big Breakfast 6.00am-7.00am Steve Wright 7.00am-8.00am Johnnie Walker with the Big Breakfast 8.00am-9.00am Steve Wright 9.00am-10.00am Johnnie Walker with the Big Breakfast 10.00am-11.00am Steve Wright 11.00am-12.00am Johnnie Walker with the Big Breakfast 12.00am-1.00am Steve Wright 1.00am-2.00am Johnnie Walker with the Big Breakfast 2.00am-3.00am Steve Wright 3.00am-4.00am Johnnie Walker with the Big Breakfast 4.00am-5.00am Steve Wright 5.00am-6.00am Johnnie Walker with the Big Breakfast 6.00am-7.00am Steve Wright 7.00am-8.00am Johnnie Walker with the Big Breakfast 8.00am-9.00am 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TUESDAY OCTOBER 26 1993



Gould shows the strain of a tension-filled two days as he leaves the Coventry City ground yesterday after saying his farewells to his backroom staff at the club

Gould departs amid acrimony

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BOBBY Gould spent yesterday, two days after his sudden resignation as manager of Coventry City, saying his impassioned goodbyes, clearing his desk, and then driving to Leicester where, in a room of refined Victorian splendour, the Football Association found him guilty of a charge of misconduct.

Gould appeared calm, even content, throughout the day, until in the evening Bryan Richardson, his former chairman at Coventry, accused him of raising a "smokescreen" for his resignation.

Richardson claimed that it was untrue that the board had made it a condition that the club would have to sell Peter Ndlovu, the Zimbabwean winger, before Gould could make any signings to arrest the decline of a team that began the season with its best opening in 56 years.

Gould has seemed before — notably in 1984, when Coventry, the club of his home city, dismissed him in his first period as manager — to be voicing a cry from the soul of a high-tensioned football manager. Last night, with emotion clear in his voice, he phoned the BBC to demand that Richardson should apologise publicly for his assertion that the talk about Ndlovu leaving was effectively a red herring, and that mounting stress had caused Gould's resignation.

Ironically, as Phil Neal was installed in Gould's old office as temporary manager, the club announced that there would be as many as three signings before this weekend. There was no mention of how these recruitments would be financed, but Ndlovu, who had been at the club dodging reporters throughout the day, did not expect to be leaving immediately.

Neal, preparing to hire Phil Thompson, his former Liver-

pool team mate, as his deputy, said he would try to instill some stability at Coventry, and hoped that within six weeks he would prove himself worthy of a contract. Gould had never had one, and said yesterday that he had not wanted one.

Gould had amazed even Margery, his wife, by his announcement at Queens Park Rangers on Saturday,



Neal: caretaker

that he was resigning on the spot. The team lost 5-1, and he had spoken within the club of contemplating such a move following Coventry's fraught Coca-Cola Cup tie against Wycombe Wanderers three weeks before.

Yesterday, with the club training in apparently high spirits under Neal, a posse of pressmen waited at the training ground. Gould arrived in his red BMW, registration J88 Cup, a gift from Sam Hammam, the chairman of Wimbledon, the club he managed in the 1988 FA Cup final.

Hammam had heard over his car radio on Saturday about the resignation and had driven across London from Leyton Orient to Shepherds Bush to catch Gould and speak to him before the Coventry bus headed north. On the wall outside the players changing room was a letter from a local Coventry City supporter, a man who has watched the team for 30 years,

and who had written: "The so-called football against Southampton was the worst I have seen... no commitment, no fight when the ball ran loose to try to regain it."

Gould made it clear to the press yesterday that he was not ready to add to his published account in a tabloid newspaper (for which he adamantly insisted he received no payment) — "I do not approve of chequebook journalism".

At the Grand Hotel in Leicester, where three amateur councillors of the FA, declared him guilty of misconduct for calling a referee and linesmen "worse than pathetic", declined the offer in the circumstances to defer it.

He chose, unlike most managers called before the disciplinary tribunal, to appear alone. His case was that, while he did say the words, they were taken out of context. He had criticised those officials in the same breath as praising another referee who had "up-

lifted my spirit" during the previous 24 hours when he watched Aston Villa v Manchester United, and which he described as "one of the finest games I have ever seen in British football."

Gould declined an FA invitation to plead that his words were uttered to the press when he was emotionally upset. He stood by his statement, he offered to show the tribunal the match video, and indeed has offered to show the referee, Peter Foakes, that video.

Furthermore, Gould suggested to the FA that, now that he expected to have time on his hands, he would willingly speak to any group of referees, or help in any way to try to improve the situation in which more managers than ever before are accused, by a football association clinging to Victorian ideals of sportsmanship, of speaking out of line.

FA Cup draw, page 40
David Miller, page 40

Macari debates move with backroom staff

LOU Macari, the Stoke City manager, was talking to his backroom staff yesterday before deciding whether to return to Celtic as manager. He met with Celtic officials over the weekend but he is concerned over the future of Chic Bates, his No 2 at Stoke, and Peter Henderson, the reserve team manager.

Macari said: "I have to consider my staff and the position they would be left in if I went because it was me who brought them to Stoke." But he admitted it was "a possibility" that he would invite some of his staff to Celtic if he moved.

Meanwhile, Macari has pledged to be at the side of his forward, Mark Stieglitz, when he

stands trial at Shrewsbury Crown Court today accused of causing actual bodily harm to the Stockport defender, Jim Gannon. Stieglitz allegedly struck Gannon at the end of a match between Stoke and Stockport at the Victoria Ground in March.

Wallace Mercer, the Heart of Midlothian chairman, has dropped his plan to buy the club's home ground at Tynecastle and then lease it back to Hearts.

Dean Saunders, the Aston Villa and Wales striker, was in isolation last night after contracting chicken pox. He will miss Villa's Coca-Cola Cup third-round tie with Sunderland at Roker Park tonight.

Chalmers returns for district final

By ALAN LORIMER

THE return of Craig Chalmers to domestic action will strengthen the South team for the McEwan's rugby union district final against Glasgow at Melrose on Saturday.

Chalmers has missed much of the season with a knee injury but played in the Naas Botha testimonial game in Pretoria on Saturday, along with Gavin Hastings and John Jeffrey.

His return at stand-off half means that Graham Shiel reverts to inside centre at the expense of Brian Swan, of Gala. Also back in the South side is Tony Stanger, who missed the opening game against North and Midlands at Jedburgh on Saturday because of a dead-leg and will

face a final fitness test tomorrow when South meet for a training session. Craig Dalgleish, a late replacement on Saturday, is now dropped to make way for Stanger.

The young Gala winger can certainly consider himself unfortunate as he scored two splendid tries against North and Midlands in his district debut. However, he has the compensation of making a district appearance for South at under-21 level tomorrow in their championship game against Glasgow.

The other option for the South selectors was to retain Dalgleish and leave out Gary Parker, but the Melrose player has proved himself an invaluable asset for both district and club with the accuracy of his goal-kicking.

South are still not sure whether Gregor Townsend, who broke his thumb, will be fit in time to face New Zealand next month but he is likely to resume a week on Saturday in the McEwan's Club Championship.

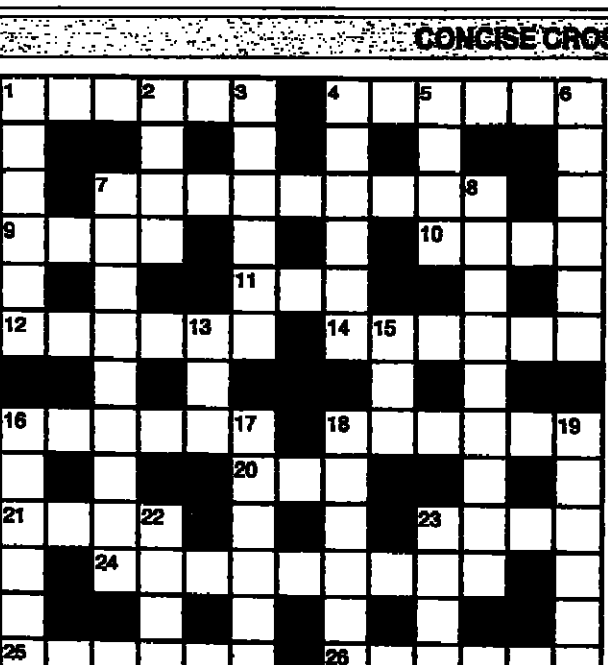
South's selectors have resisted tinkering with the pack despite a poor second-half performance by the Border forwards against North on Saturday.

The only real change open to them would have been to restore Daddie Weir to his Scotland position of No 8. Weir, however, remains the only choice for South at lock and, in any case, their back row of Derek Turnbull, Carl Hogg and John Amos is widely thought to be the optimum blend.

SOUTH: M Dods (Gala); A Stanger (Hawick); S Nichol (Glasgow); G Shiel (Melrose); G Parker (Melrose); C Chalmers (Melrose); B Dalgleish (Melrose); G Isaac (Gala); J Hogg (Hawick); H Hunter (Gala); D Turnbull (Hawick); R Brown (Melrose) captain; G Weir (Melrose); J Amos (Gala); C Hogg (Melrose); replacements: D Hunter (Glasgow); O'Hara (Hawick); K Barrie (Leith); S Herwick (Hawick).

□ The Welsh Rugby Union's competitions committee, concerned about the size of squads and movement of players, has called for an emergency meeting to discuss rules concerning player transfers in the Heineken League. Several transfers have already gone through this season and David Rees, the committee chairman, said: "We are going to devote a whole meeting of the general purposes committee to the question."

Australia appeal, page 42



CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3233

ACROSS
1 Practice (6)
4 Sponsor (6)
7 Dodo island (9)
9 Seven days (4)
10 Gash (4)
11 Newt (3)
12 Electric bell (6)
14 Robust, lusty (6)
16 Church chant (6)
18 Poor (6)
20 Feline pet (3)
21 Bamboo (4)
23 Slope (4)
24 Playing on feelings (9)
25 Explore (6)
26 Huge Pyramidal statue (6)

DOWN
1 House spider trap (6)
2 Valuable hardwood (4)
3 Place tag (6)
4 Tiny (6)
5 Gardener's basket (4)
6 Gable point (6)
7 Intermediate storey (9)
8 Go gently (4,5)
13 Brussels currency (3)
15 Play part (3)
16 Spiky plant (6)
17 Crush (6)
18 Sheaves groups (6)
19 Printing mould (6)
22 Islamic ruler (4)
23 Hard currency (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3234

ACROSS: 2 Hyde 4 Bloc 7 In awe 9 Moderator 10 Chap 11 Green 12 Recto 13 Squib 15 Ended 17 Poona 18 Tact 20 C in C 21 Thermidor 23 Amuse 24 Dote 25 Scry
DOWN: 1 Balanced 2 Hem 3 Dodgem 5 Lath 6 Carte blanche 7 Incarcerated 8 Transient 11 Good time 14 Usurious 16 Acidic 19 Bent 22 Ray

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WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Today I continue to celebrate The Times World Chess Championship by looking at critical positions from earlier stages of the match.

This position is a variation from the game Kasparov - Short, Times World Championship, game 7. White to play and win.

Solution, page 42
Championship Chess, page 7

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SCORDATURA
a. A prostitute
b. Red lettuce or radice
c. Idiosyncratic tuning

FUCOID
a. Stupid
b. Like seaweed
c. Smoky

GABION
a. Coarse muslin
b. A neutral particle
c. A bottomless basket

Answers on page 42

Hodgkinson's injury adds to Midlands task

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

INJURIES seem to be a feature of English rugby in a season not two months old. The Midlands Division, who play the New Zealanders at Leicester's Welford Road ground this afternoon in the second match of the tour, duly collected theirs yesterday when Simon Hodgkinson withdrew from the team.

Hodgkinson, the former England full back now with Moseley, had hoped to use the divisional programme as a springboard back to the national side, but the thigh strain that curtailed his appearance against the South-West at Bath ten days ago has not mended in time. His place goes to John Steele, the Northampton utility back who will also be first-choice goalkeeper.

Steele, much of whose representative rugby has been at stand-off half, toured New Zealand with England B last year and played at full back. Having been part of the Midlands squad for the last three years, he will integrate quickly. He and Paul Challinor practised their kicking yesterday morning and Steele's form was encouraging enough for him to be preferred, even though he has done little at senior level this season.

It was goal-kicking that undid the last All Blacks to visit Leicester, ten years ago, a crowd of 17,000 yelling themselves hoarse as Dusty Hare kicked a penalty from 54 metres and an even longer dropped goal in a 19-13 win. If the divisional players seek inspiration, that game should provide it, notably for the pressure that their tacklers placed upon the New Zealanders.

They even have survivors to remind them that the All Blacks can be beaten. Gary Pearce, Northampton's tight-head prop, was an original selection and Dean Richards, captain today, was a replacement. His last message today will surely be "Make your tackles count" before his team goes out against a New Zealand side bearing a fresh-faced look compared with the side that demolished London by 27 points on Saturday.

No regional combination on this tour will beat the All Blacks by trying to outplay them at their own game, and the Midlands believe they have the backs to run at the touring side and the support,

in Neil Back, to keep running. This is a critical match for Back. If the blond flanker is to achieve his ambition of an international cap he must convince the doubting Thomases in selection that he can mix it with the best. That requires a game that makes effective use of his many talents. There is not much of a cutting edge in the Midlands midfield, but if Back can keep the ball alive he will find his forwards eager to compete.

The All Blacks management will want to see what Marc Ellis can make of the No 10 shirt. Ellis, 22, has spent most of his senior career at centre or wing. Indeed, Laurie Mauns, then his provincial coach and now his national one, moved him from his schoolboy position of stand-off and has seen him develop into an exciting mid-field player for Otago.

Stephen Bachop provided

MIDLANDS DIVISION: J Steele (Northampton); S Hadzney (Leicester); S Potter (Leicester); J Bates (Leicester); M Thorneycroft (Northampton); P Challinor (Northampton); M Dawson (Northampton); G Rowlands (Leicester); J Ower (Northampton); G Pearce (Northampton); J Wills (Leicester); M Johnson (Leicester); S Lloyd (Leicester); N Back (Leicester); D Richards (Leicester, capt).

NEW ZEALANDERS: S Howarth (Auckland); J Timu (Otago); E Clark (Auckland); J Stevenson (Auckland); J Ross (North Harbour); M Ellis (Otago); J Preston (Wellington); M Allen (Taranaki); N Hewitt (Canterbury); G Hurrell (Wellington); Z Brooke (Auckland, capt); J Jones (North Harbour); R Fromont (Auckland); L Berry (North Harbour); J Mitchell (Wellington). Referee: S Stirling (Ireland).

the benchmark against London, so Ellis has a hard act to follow. The same might be said of Liam Barry, who, like Shane Howarth, Richard Fromont and John Mitchell, makes his first appearance as an All Black. In Barry's case, however, it is the family history he maintains. His grandfather, Ned, and his father, Kevin, were both All Blacks loose forwards in their time, so Barry, 22, who is matched directly against Back, has powerful antecedents.

The ticket office at Welford Road closed at noon yesterday on another capacity crowd: 56,400 watched at Twickenham on Saturday and 15,400 will pack the Leicester ground more in hope than expectation of another historic Midlands display.

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